

**Date:** July 5, 2011

**To:** Central Zone – Former David Thompson Health Region Sites  
Physicians, Nursing, Laboratory Services

**From:** AHS Laboratory Services – Central Zone

**Re:** Body Fluid Cell Count Reporting

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**Key Messages:**

Effective immediately, the reporting units for cell counts on body fluids (peritoneal, pericardial, pleural and synovial) have changed. Body fluid cell counts are now being reported in units of  $\times 10^6/L$ .

Body fluid cell counts were previously reported in units of  $\times 10^9/L$ . Body fluid cell counts will now being reported in units of  $\times 10^6/L$  which is a conversion factor of 1000. For example, a body fluid White Blood Cell count previously reported as  $0.550 \times 10^9/L$  is equivalent to  $550 \times 10^6/L$  in the new reporting units. The same units/conversion factor applied to body fluid Red Blood Cell counts.

For additional information, please refer to the appropriate Guide to Lab Services or Test directory.

**Why this is important:**

The change in reporting was made to ensure that patient results are consistent with reference literature as well as with reporting of similar testing in other AHS sites in the province.

**For additional questions contact:**

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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