

Date: October 26, 2011
To: Central Zone – Red Deer: Physicians, Nurses and Laboratories
From: AHS Laboratory Services – Central Zone
Re: Urinalysis Changes Effective November 1, 2011 at 9:00 am

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Key Messages:

Effective November 1, 2011 at 9:00 am, the ability to order “Microscopic Urinalysis” will be discontinued.

The Red Deer Regional Hospital Laboratory will implement automated urinalysis and microscopy.

Automated microscopy may prevent subsequent requests for additional testing on the same sample.

Additional Information:

- As there is limited clinical utility for urine microscopy when urinalysis results are negative, the ability to order “MICUR” (Microscopic, Urine) in Meditech will be deleted. Requests for “Microscopic, Urine” on the test requisition will not be performed.
- Microscopic urinalysis will be done automatically if the urinalysis results meet any of the following criteria:

Protein:	greater than or equal to trace
Blood:	greater than or equal to trace
Nitrite:	positive
Leukocyte:	greater than or equal to trace
Glucose:	greater than or equal to 55 mmol/L

On a trial basis, additional criteria for Red Deer automated microscopy will include: Appearance – other than clear Colour – other than yellow
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- Specific requests for urine microscopy will require the physician to contact the Clinical Biochemist at 403-506-5633 or the Pathologist on-call at 403-304-1351 for approval.
- Automated microscopy using flow cell digital imaging and auto-particle recognition software will provide standardized and reproducible results.
- The specimen used for automated microscopy cannot be used for further testing. If additional testing is subsequently required, please call the Laboratory at 403-343-4749 to determine if recollection is required or if there is specimen available that was not used for automated microscopy.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Dr. Allison Venner, Central Zone Clinical Biochemist, 403-406-5633 or allison.venner@albertahealthservices.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. James Wesenberg, AHS Medical / Scientific Director, Laboratory Services - Regional Centres and Rural