

Date: October 15, 2012

To: North Zone, - former Peace Country Health sites: Physicians, Nursing Units, Laboratories

From: AHS Laboratory Services

Re: Change in Collection of Sterile Fluids for Culture and Sensitivity

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

Effective immediately, sterile fluids for culture and sensitivity testing must be collected into a sterile screw cap container rather than the previously requested sodium heparin vacutainer tube.

Why this is important:

This change will maximize the recovery of bacterial organisms from sterile fluids. Additives in collection tubes may interfere with the recovery of bacterial organisms.

Action Required:

All sterile fluids for culture and sensitivity must be collected into a sterile screw cap container. The order number for these containers is stock #0003876.

Continue to submit sterile fluids in sodium heparin for chemistry and/or hematology testing.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Lee-Ann Nessman, Microbiology Technologist III, Queen Elizabeth II Hospital at 780-538-7428

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Robert Rennie, AHS Clinical Microbiology Consultant for North, Edmonton, Central and South Zones

Dr. James Wesenberg, AHS Provincial Medical / Scientific Director, Laboratory Services