

Date: September 5, 2012

To: Central, Edmonton and North Zone: Physicians, Nursing

From: AHS Laboratory Services

Re: Changes for B, T and NK Lymphocyte Enumeration,
CD19/CD20 Lymphocyte Enumeration and T-Lymph Subsets CD3/4/8

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Key Messages:

Effective August 27, 2012, due to a change in testing methodology, the reference ranges and specimen requirements for B, T and NK Lymphocyte Enumeration (BTNK), CD19/CD20 Lymphocyte Enumeration (BCELL) and T-Lymph Subsets CD3/4/8 (TLYM) have changed.

Why this is important:

The per cent (%) reference range will no longer be reported. The reference range information will be indicated on the report along with the patient result. Using the correct reference range is required for effective diagnosis and treatment of patients.

Specimen requirements for these tests are now two 4 mL EDTA (mauve top) tubes, one for lymphocyte testing and the other for the Complete Blood Count and Differential. Laboratories in Central, Edmonton and North Zone have been made aware of this change.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Dr. Susan Nahirniak at susan.nahirniak@albertahealthservices.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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