



## Laboratory Bulletin

**Date:** September 29, 2015

**To:** Edmonton Zone and Calgary Lab Services  
Physicians, Nurse Managers, Educators and Practitioners, Laboratory Directors  
and Managers

**From:** AHS Laboratory Services

**Re:** New Hemoglobin A1c Test Utilization Criteria

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#### Key Messages:

- **Effective October 14, 2015** – New provincial Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) test utilization criteria will be implemented by laboratories in Edmonton Zone and Urban and rural laboratories in Calgary Lab services.
- Order frequency will be limited to one HbA1c request within a 90 day period.
- Order frequency for pregnant females between the ages of 15 – 45 years (inclusive) will be limited to one HbA1c request within a 30 day period. This is intended for those individuals who are pregnant and require treatment.
- The new criteria align with the following recommendation by the 2013 Canadian Diabetes Association. Can J Diabetes 37 (2013) S35-39

*For most individuals with diabetes, A1C should be measured every 3 months to ensure that glycemic goals are being met or maintained. Testing at least every 6 months should be performed in adults during periods of treatment and lifestyle stability when glycemic targets have been consistently achieved.*

#### Action Required:

- Do not order HbA1c with a frequency of greater than once every 90 days:  
  
Exception – for pregnant patients requiring treatment – do not order HbA1c with a frequency greater than once every 30 days.

#### Why this is important:

- The Laboratory Information System (LIS) will not accept test requests for HbA1c if ordered with a frequency greater than specified above.

#### Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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