

Date: October 25, 2012

To: South Zone – East: Physicians, Nursing and Laboratory Staff at Bow Island Health Centre and Brooks Health Centre

From: AHS Laboratory Services

Re: Discontinuation of Bleeding Time Test at Bow Island Health Centre and Brooks Health Centre

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

Effective immediately, the Bleeding Time test is no longer available at the Bow Island Health Centre and Brooks Health Centre laboratories.

Why this is important:

- Bleeding time is not a useful test because it is neither sensitive nor specific.
- Due to the manual nature of the test and variations in patient skin texture and thickness, the results are not reproducible.
- Depending on the clinical situation - personal or family history of bleeding, the nature of the bleeding (mucosal or soft tissue), presence of thrombocytopenia or use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs or anti-platelet agents - more sensitive and specific tests are available.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Dr. Michael O'Connor at 403-529-8867

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by
Dr. Michael O'Connor, Zone Clinical Department Head (Co-Lead) Laboratory Medicine,
South Zone