

**Date:** April 2, 2012

**To:** Edmonton Zone: Physicians, Nursing Staff

**From:** AHS Laboratory Services

**Re:** Discontinuation of Urine Reducing Substances and Fecal Reducing Substances Tests

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**Key Messages:**

Effective April 16, 2012, Urine Reducing Substances (URED) and Fecal Reducing Substances (FRED) testing will be discontinued because manufacturing of the testing tablets has been discontinued due to lack of demand.

**Why this is important:**

Both URED and FRED lack specificity. URED reacts with any reducing substance in the urine. Low specific gravity urines containing glucose can yield falsely positive results.

Similarly, URED and FRED lack sensitivity. Metabolites of sulpha drugs as well as X-Ray contrast media can interfere with URED's sensitivity. FRED has poor sensitivity for oligosaccharides. Fecal bacteria consume reducing substances, and can result in false-negative results. The following have been documented to cause false positive or false negative FRED results: salicylates, penicillin, choral hydrate, menthol, phenol, streptomycin, para-aminosalicylic acid, isoniazid, ascorbic acid, cephalosporins, and probenecid.

**Action Required:**

If...	Then order...
Galactosemia suspected	Serum galactosemia screen (GALWB)
Pentosuria or fructosuria suspected	Urine sugar identification (SUGID)
Sucrase or lactase deficiency suspected	Fecal sugar identification (SUGID)

**For additional questions contact:**

Dr. Fiona Bamforth, Clinical Chemist, AHS Laboratory Services at 780-407-7379 or  
 Dr. George Cembrowski, Clinical Chemist, AHS Laboratory Services at 780-407-8817 or  
 Trefor Higgins, Clinical Chemist, *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>* at 780-451-3702 ext. 8134

**This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:**

Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Medical Scientific Director and Co-Zone Clinical Department Head, AHS Laboratory Services, Edmonton Zone  
 Dr. Robert Rennie, Co-Zone Clinical Department Head, AHS Laboratory Services, Edmonton Zone  
 Dr. Raymond Lai, Medical Director, *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>*