

**Date:** October 4, 2011

**To:** Hepatitis Clinics, GI and ID physicians, Alberta Health and Wellness, Medical Officers of Health, Alberta MicroNet, Laboratory Directors and Managers

**From:** Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)

**Re:** Hepatitis C Virus Genotyping Testing Change

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**Key Message:**

Effective October 11, 2011, ProvLab will no longer report Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) typing down to the subtype level; only the genotype will be reported.

**Why this is Important:**

- ProvLab currently reports both HCV genotype and subtype results.
- Current treatment protocols for HCV are determined on genotype results and not on *subtype* results so this change has NO adverse clinical impact.
- HCV subtyping may result in reporting delays due to either mixed subtype infection and/or inherent limitations with the assay. Delayed HCV genotype reporting can have an adverse clinical impact.
- This initiative was endorsed by the Provincial Hepatitis Stakeholders Committee.

**Action Required:**

Collection and Transport of Specimens: No change

If a subtype result is required for clinical care: the clinician can contact the laboratory to arrange for such testing.

Edmonton Site - Phone 780-407-7121, ask for virologist/microbiologist-on-Call  
Calgary Site - Phone 403-944-1200, ask for virologist/microbiologist-on-Call

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:  
Dr. Marie Louie, ProvLab Acting Medical Director