

Date: November 21, 2012

To: North Zone, Edmonton Zone, Central Zone and South Zone
Physicians, Nursing staff, Lab Directors and Managers

From: AHS Laboratory Services and Calgary Laboratory Services (CLS)

Re: Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) B-27 Test Consolidation

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Key Messages:

- Effective December 3, 2012 the Histocompatibility Laboratory at the University of Alberta Hospital (UAH) will be consolidating all Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) B-27 testing to the Flow Cytometry Laboratory at the Foothills Medical Centre (Calgary Lab Services) in Calgary.
- Currently HLA B-27 testing is performed by sequence specific polymorphism (SSP) methodology at the UAH Histocompatibility Laboratory in Edmonton. HLA B-27 testing performed at the Foothills Medical Centre will be performed using a flow cytometric, one-color direct immunofluorescence method.
- The presence of HLA B-27 antigen is strongly associated with several diseases including ankylosing spondylitis (AS), Reiter's syndrome, acute anterior uveitis, and inflammatory bowel disease. HLA B-27 testing is routinely used to screen for AS since 90% of patients with AS have the HLA B-27 surface antigen compared to only 8% of healthy individuals. HLA B-27 testing is currently ordered by rheumatologists, ophthalmologists and approved specialists.

Why this is important:

- This transition will allow Laboratory Services to move towards a more integrated service model.
- This transition supports the standardization of processes for referral work, including logistics, specimen handling and report distribution enhancing consistency within and across zones.
- Specimen collection requirements and expected turnaround times for HLA B-27 testing should not be affected by this change.

Action required:

- For sample collection and handling, please refer to the CLS Lab Test Directory at:
<http://www.calgarylabservices.com/lab-services-guide/lab-tests/AlphabeticalListing/H/HLA-B-27-By-Flow-Cytometry.htm>
- Please submit test requests on the CLS Flow Cytometry Requisition posted at:
<http://clsiweb.calgaryhealthregion.ca/Library/Requisitions/FC3200.pdf>

For additional questions contact:

- Dr. Patricia Campbell, Director, Histocompatibility Laboratory, UAH at: 780-407-7916
- Christine Yamniuk, Supervisor, Histocompatibility Laboratory, UAH at: 780-407-8881
- Joanne Luider, Lab Scientist-Flow Cytometry, CLS at: 403-944-8995
- Client Response (Edmonton) at: 780-407-7484
- Laboratory Information Centre (Calgary) at: 403-770-3600

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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