

Date: September 30, 2011

To: Edmonton Zone: Royal Alexandra Hospital, Grey Nuns Community Hospital, Misericordia Community Hospital, Sturgeon Community Hospital, Northeast Community Health Centre, Devon General Hospital, Westview Health Centre
Physicians, Nurses, Administration, Laboratory Directors and Managers

From: AHS Laboratory Services - Edmonton Zone

Re: Laboratory Testing with Routine Priority

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Key Messages:

Historically, a Rapid Response Laboratory service delivery model was in place at most sites within the Edmonton Zone. With this model, tests were performed on-site only if ordered as Stat (S) or Priority (PO). Routine (R) testing was forwarded to a central laboratory.

We are pleased to announce that effective October 4, 2011 AHS and Covenant Laboratory Services will begin providing on-site testing ordered with a routine (R) priority. Site specific test lists that apply will be available through your respective laboratory.

Background:

Increased instrument capacity has provided the ability to accommodate increased test volumes. Provision of on-site testing is expected to result in improved turn around times, and decreased specimen handling.

Currently, patient care needs can result in duplicate test ordering and repeat specimen collection when a test previously ordered as routine is required to be escalated; with the availability of on-site testing, this should be mitigated in many cases.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Regan Wolansky, Director, AHS Laboratory Services, Edmonton Zone at 780-407-3615

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Robert Rennie, Clinical Department Head, AHS Laboratory Services, Edmonton Zone
Shelley Rawlake, Executive Director, AHS Laboratory Services, Edmonton Zone and Provincial Programs