

Date: October 25, 2011
To: South Zone – West: Physician Offices, All laboratories
From: AHS Laboratory Services – South Zone (West)
Re: LB-31-11 HbA1c Reporting Change

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

Effective November 15, 2011, reporting and referral of HbA1c will change with the introduction of a new Tosoh G8 analyzer which replaces the older generation Tosoh G7.

Why this is important:

- Reports will now contain **Presumptive Identification** for certain hemoglobin variants. For Example:

The presence of a structural hemoglobin variant is noted – query HbAD?

If not previously identified – consider Hemoglobin Electrophoresis.

The HbA1c result is an accurate reflection of the percentage of the glycated HbA but the reference range may not be valid for this patient.

However HbA1c may be used in a relative manner to monitor diabetic control.

- Reflex variant referral for confirmation will be discontinued.
- Reference range for HbA1c will remain the same at 4-6%.

Action Required:

- If required, physicians will need to request a referral for variant confirmation.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Lorne Kettle, Chemistry Supervisor 430-388-6092

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by
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