

**Date:** October 28, 2011

**To:** Central Zone, Edmonton Zone and North Zone  
Physicians, Nursing Staff, Laboratory Directors and Managers

**From:** AHS Laboratory Services and *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>*

**Re:** Centralization of Laboratory Testing for Allergens

**PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE**

**Key Messages:**

- Allergy testing in Northern Alberta will be centralized at the *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>* base laboratory in Edmonton on Tuesday, **November 1, 2011**.
- There will be no changes to the testing methodology.
- Test results will be available in flow sheets on Alberta Netcare. Patient reports will continue to be distributed through established mechanisms.
- The negative cut-off of < 0.35 kU/L will remain the same.
- The concentration scale for interpreting positive results will change slightly. Use the table below as a guide for result interpretation:

<b>Result (kU/L)</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
<0.35	Negative (0)
0.35-0.69	Equivocal (1+)
0.70-3.49	Positive (2+)
3.5-17.49	Positive (3+)
17.5-49.99	Strong Positive (4+)
50-99.99	Strong Positive (5+)
≥100	Strong Positive (6+)

**Ordering Guidelines:**

- Please continue to use existing requisitions. Allergy test ordering guidelines will not change at this time however any future changes to test orders will be communicated as they become available.

**Laboratory Collection and Handling Requirements:**

- A dedicated sample is required for allergy testing. Do not combine with other tests.
- Collect one gold top serum separator tube.
- Allow the specimen to clot for 30 minutes, centrifuge, then refrigerate specimen.
- Send specimens directly to *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>* base laboratory through established courier routes.
- Aliquot and freeze the sample if there will be a delay of **more than 3 days** between specimen collection and receipt by the *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>* base laboratory.

**Why this is important:**

- Testing platforms are being consolidated to a single testing location for Northern Alberta patients.
- Testing frequency will meet clinical requirements and results will generally be available within 24 to 72 hours of specimen receipt at the *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>* base laboratory in Edmonton.
- Turnaround times for test orders that must be referred out or held for confirmation of the test order may be delayed.

**For additional questions:**

- **Testing inquiries:** Contact the Clinical Chemists at *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>* at 780-451-3702 (ext 8134 or 8154)
- **Specimen packaging inquiries:** Contact Specimen Processing, *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>* at 780-451-3702

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

Dr. Robert Rennie, Clinical Department Head, AHS Laboratory Services, Edmonton Zone  
Dr. Raymond Lai, Medical Director, *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>*