

Date: October 21, 2011

To: Hepatitis Clinics, Gastroenterologists and Infectious Disease physicians, Alberta Health and Wellness, Medical Officers of Health, Alberta MicroNet, Laboratory Directors and Managers

From: Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)

Re: Hepatitis B Virus Load Testing Change

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- **Effective October 12, 2011**, ProvLab has changed the reporting range for HBV DNA test results following a transition to a second generation of the Roche® HBV DNA assay kit. The lower limit of detection on the linear range is now 20 IU/mL (previously 54.5 IU/mL) and the upper limit is 1.7×10^8 IU/mL (previously 1.1×10^8 IU/mL).

Why this is Important:

- The newly implemented HBV DNA second generation assay detection range will have lower and higher limits of detection on the linear range. The detectable range given on laboratory reports will therefore be different from previous reports generated with the first generation assay.
- Please note, this may have an impact on clinical interpretation if the patient has an HBV DNA between 20-54.5 IU/mL. Such a result would have previously been interpreted as “undetectable”.

Collection and Transport of Specimens:

- No change.

Inquires and feedback may be directed to:

- Edmonton Site – Ph: 780-407-7121 (ask for Virologist/Microbiologist-on-Call)
- Calgary Site – Ph: 403-944-1200 (ask for Virologist/Microbiologist-on-Call)

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