

Date: November 29, 2011

To: All zones
Physicians and Laboratory Directors and Managers

From: AHS Laboratory Services
Laboratory Operations Steering Committee (LOSC)

Re: AHS "Patient Pay" Laboratory Testing Update

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Key Messages:

Following extensive discussion with laboratory partners and other stakeholders, changes to "Patient Pay" testing are effective immediately. The AHS Laboratory Operations Steering Committee (LOSC) has determined that the following tests meet the standard of care and have been removed from the "Patient Pay" test list provincially:

- **Free Prostate Specific Antigen**
- **Prostate Specific Antigen**
- **Tumour Markers CA15.3/CA 19.9**
- **High-Sensitivity C - Reactive Protein (hsCRP)** - All laboratories in Alberta that perform this test are now using a single hsCRP assay that measures to 0.1 mg/L.
- **Urea Breath Testing** - This is standard of care and is part of the Alberta Society for Gastroenterology Guideline for Treatment of *Helicobacter pylori* peptic Ulcer Disease in Adults.

The following tests will continue to be "Patient Pay":

- **Fertility Testing** - Patients will continue to pay at fertility clinics until it is determined that the patient is pregnant.
- **Bioavailable Testosterone** - The most prevalent application is for social lifestyle change or effect. It will remain as "Patient Pay".

Action Required:

- All laboratories should follow these parameters for "Patient Pay" testing.

For additional questions contact:

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This Bulletin has been reviewed and approved by the Co-Chairs of LOSC:

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