
Date: December 9, 2011

To: Dr. Andre Corriveau, Dr. Gerry Predy, Transplant Programs, Infectious Disease Divisions, Neurology Divisions, Hematology Divisions, Fertility Clinics, AHW and AHS Medical Officers of Health, and Laboratory Directors and Managers

From: Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)

Re: New serology assay for HTLV-I/II

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Key Message:

ProvLab has finished validating and implementing a new assay for serological testing of HTLV-I/II, the Architect rHTLV-I/II. Effective immediately, this assay will now be used, and the normal testing schedule will resume.

Background:

ProvLab will discontinue using the current HTLV-I/HTLV-II Capture assay by Ortho due to manufacturer production problems (*previous bulletin Nov 14 2011- National Shortage of HTLV-I/II Serology Kits*), and convert to the Architect assay which is Health Canada approved for diagnostic testing.

Interpretation:

There will be no change in interpretation of test results and results will be reported as negative or positive.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Dr. Raymond Tellier, Program Leader, Transplant Program, ProvLab
Phone: 403-944-2724 or E-mail: Raymond.tellier@albertahealthservices.ca

For questions about specific patients, please contact the Virologist-on-Call:

Edmonton Site - Phone: 780-407-7121 (ask for Virologist-on-Call)
Calgary Site - Phone: 403-944-1200 (ask for Virologist-on-Call)

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