

Date: November 14, 2011

To: South Zone and Central Zone (former David Thompson Health Region sites):
Physicians, Nurses and Laboratories

From: AHS Laboratory Services – Central and South Zones

Re: Reverse T3 Testing Discontinuation

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

Reverse T3 testing will be discontinued as of November 15, 2011.

Additional Information

- Reverse T3 has been used in investigation of thyroid function in patients receiving amiodarone.
- The Clinical Practice Guideline for Thyroid Dysfunction from the Towards Optimized Practice program of the Alberta Medical Association recommends appropriate use of TSH, FT4 and FT3 (<http://topalbertadoctors.org/cpgs.php>) in these patients.
- A patient with normal TSH, FT4 and FT3 observed after 3 months of treatment should be followed with TSH measurement every 6 – 12 months.
- An elevated TSH suggests the development of amiodarone induced hypothyroidism.
- Decreased TSH levels are observed in both amiodarone induced hyperthyroidism and clinically euthyroid patients. Comparison of FT4 and FT3 to previous values and clinical assessment are required to determine the status of these patients.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

South Zone- East: Dr. Michael O'Connor at 403-529-8867, michael.o'connor@albertahealthservices.ca

South Zone-West: Dr. Barbara Popma at 403-388-6153, barbara.popma@albertahealthservices.ca

Central Zone: Dr. James Wesenberg at 403-343-4723, james.wesenberg@albertahealthservices.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. James Wesenberg, AHS Medical / Scientific Director, Laboratory Services - Regional Centres and Rural