

**Date:** July 30, 2010

**To:** Alberta Health Services (AHS) – Central Zone, Edmonton Zone and North Zone Physicians, Cross Cancer Institute (CCI) - Administration, Oncologists, Nursing Units 30, 40 and 41, Out Patient Departments, Clinical Research Unit, Pharmacy, Diagnostic Imaging, Radiation Therapy, Nursing Education, Lab Directors and Managers

**From:** Edmonton and Area - Laboratory Services, Cancer Services

**Re:** Serum Tumour Marker Testing

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## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

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### Key Messages:

- *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>* has been performing Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) testing for Edmonton Zone patients since July 2008. **Effective August 16, 2010**, *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>* will transition all PSA testing from the current Abbott Architect methodology to Roche methodology, which is the same methodology currently used by the Cross Cancer Institute (CCI) and Calgary Laboratory Services (CLS). *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>* has worked closely with CLS and CCI to develop common reference ranges and reporting intervals.
- There will be no change to the PSA reference range. PSA test results performed using the Roche methodology are expected to be **slightly lower** than results currently reported using Abbott methodology.
- **Effective August 30, 2010**, testing currently performed by the Cross Cancer Institute for CA125, CEA and PSA will be transferred to *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>* in Edmonton. Provincially harmonized reference ranges for CEA and CA125 are: CEA 0 – 5 ug/L, CA125 <35 KU/L
- Test results will be available in flowsheets on NetCare. Patient reports will be distributed through established mechanisms.

### Why this is important:

- Analytical methods for tumour marker testing will be harmonized provincially which facilitates monitoring and trending of individual patient results.
- Turnaround times for test results are expected to improve with centralization of testing. Test results for most patients will be available within 24 to 72 h of specimen receipt at the *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>* base laboratory.

### Action Required:

- Specimens for CA125, CEA and PSA testing should be sent directly to the *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>* base laboratory through established courier processes.
- Specimens will not need to be aliquoted and frozen unless there will be a delay of more than 3 days between specimen collection and receipt by the *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>* base laboratory. Specimens must be stored refrigerated.

### For additional questions contact:

- For test methodology inquiries: Trefor Higgins, Director of Biochemistry at *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>* at 780-451-3702
- For specimen packaging inquiries: Specimen Processing, *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>* at 780-451-3702

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by Dr. Fiona Bamforth, Dr. Robert Rennie and Dr. Tom Higa.