

Date: October 31, 2012

To: South Zone - East
Physicians, Nursing Managers, Medicine Hat Diagnostic Lab, Palliser Health
Regional Laboratories

From: AHS Laboratory Services – South Zone (East)

Re: Qualitative Fat Testing (Stool)

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Effective November 13, 2012, qualitative fat testing on stool specimens (screening test for fat in stool) will be discontinued at Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Laboratory.

Why this is important:

- Previously, the Microbiology Department at Medicine Hat Regional Hospital performed qualitative fat testing on stool specimens, but requests were infrequent.
- The decision has been made to discontinue the qualitative fat testing as it is an insensitive and non-specific test for malabsorption and pancreatic exocrine insufficiency.

Action Required:

- Qualitative Fat Testing on stool will no longer be included in the Guide to Lab Services. Any qualitative fat testing ordered will be result with a comment containing the above information.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Michele Claypool, Supervisor, Microbiology Lab, Medicine Hat Regional Hospital
Phone: 403-502-8648 ext.1202 or by email at: Michele.Claypool@albertahealthservices.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:
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