

Date: July 18, 2012

To: Edmonton Zone: University of Alberta and Stollery Children's Hospital
Physicians, Nursing Staff and Laboratory Directors and Managers

From: AHS Laboratory Services
University of Alberta Hospital - Laboratory Medicine and Pathology

Re: Implementation of new Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate collection tubes

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key message:

Effective August 13, 2012, the University of Alberta Hospital (UAH) Hematology Laboratory will require Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR) specimens to be collected in black Excyte ESR vacuum tubes (REF EX-10205).

Why this is important:

- This is the current ESR method used by Dyna**LIFE**_{Dx} therefore, this will standardize the methodology for ESR testing in the Edmonton zone.
- Elevated ESR may be approximately 10% lower using the Excyte methodology in comparison to the current UAH methodology.
- There is no change to adult reference ranges.

Specimen Collection and Transportation Requirements:

- Collect ESR specimens using standard venipuncture technique.
- Excyte ESR Tube must be filled to the minimum draw line and not more than the maximum draw line.
- Specimen must be received in the laboratory within 4 hours of collection.

Ordering Information:

- Excyte ESR vacuum tubes may be ordered through Central Inventory (CATALOG # 001467257 TUBE, EXCYTE ESR VACUUM EX-10205 INTER MEDICO)

For additional questions contact:

- Dr. Susan Nahirniak, Divisional Director, Hematopathology, Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Edmonton Zone, AHS at: susan.nahirniak@albertahealthservices.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, AHS Medical / Scientific Director and ZCDH, Laboratory Services – Edmonton Zone