

**Date:** March 23, 2012

**To:** All Zones  
Physicians, Nursing Staff, Pharmacy Services, Laboratory Directors and Managers

**From:** AHS Laboratory Services, Calgary Laboratory Services, DynaLIFE<sub>dx</sub> and Medicine Hat Diagnostic Laboratory

**Re:** Discontinuation of Vancomycin Peak (Post) Level Testing

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**Key Messages:**

- Vancomycin peak (post) level testing in Alberta will be discontinued effective **April 2, 2012**.
- The test will be made non-orderable in laboratory computer systems throughout the province.
- This initiative is supported by provincial infectious disease and clinical pharmacy specialists.
- Vancomycin pre-dose (trough) level testing and testing for pharmacokinetic studies (i.e. “other”, “random”, or generic “vancomycin” levels) will still be available.

**Why this is being done:**

- Vancomycin exhibits time-dependant killing [depends on the *duration* drug concentration exceeds minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC)] as opposed to concentration-dependant killing (e.g. aminoglycosides).
- Vancomycin distributes slowly into peripheral tissues, making it difficult to identify the true peak.
- Peak (post) levels have not been correlated with improvements in clinical outcome and are not recommended.

**For additional questions contact:**

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**Reference:**

- Am J Health-Syst Pharm 2009; 66(1): 82-98

**This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:**

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