Date: March 28, 2011

To: Central Zone, Edmonton Zone and North Zone
   All Physicians and Laboratory Directors and Managers

From: AHS Laboratory Services – Edmonton Zone

Re: CA19-9 and Celiac testing

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

Serum Ca 19-9 Testing

Plasma/serum CA19-9 testing referred out from Edmonton is currently sent to the BC Cancer Agency. As of April 4, 2011, this testing will move to Calgary Laboratory Services (CLS) in order to improve turn around time and make results available in Netcare.

- CLS uses a different method. A split sample comparison can be arranged if needed for interpretation until October 2011.
- The normal range is similar at < 35 KU/l and results agree at this level.
- Positive results from the CLS Roche method can be significantly different from those produced by the Abbott method used in BC.
- Specimens with positive results will be held for 2 months after reporting.
- If the interpretation of serial positive results is compromised by this change of method, the sample can also be analyzed on the old (Abbott) method.
- If a comparison is required, call Client Response at 780-407-7484 with the patient ULI and collection date.

Celiac Testing

Confirmatory testing of all initial positive anti-tissue transglutaminase (ATTG) samples by the anti-endomysial test has been discontinued.

- A false positive rate of 0.3% for our ATTG method was demonstrated over the past 2 years (ie. positive ATTG / negative anti-endomysial = 0.3%).
- This reflex testing therefore does not produce additional information and is not warranted.
- Anti-endomysial testing will continue to be done for patients with known IgA deficiency and those under 2 years old.

For additional questions contact:
Dr. Connie Prosser at 780-407-8492

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:
Dr. Robert Rennie, AHS Zone Clinical Department Head - Edmonton Zone