



## LABORATORY BULLETIN

2007 - June - 19

Bulletin #2007 - 7

**To: Physician Colleagues Ordering Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Serology Testing**

**Re: HCV Infection Supplementary Testing**

**PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE**

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With a view to provide the highest quality diagnostic laboratory services, we are informing physicians who order Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) serology on their patients about the following change.

Effective July 1, 2007: for patients in whom the screening HCV antibody yields results in a range that is poorly predictive for the laboratory diagnosis of HCV infection, the laboratory will request a dedicated follow up serum for supplementary testing by the HCV polymerase chain reaction (PCR) in place of the HCV recombinant immunoblot assay (RIBA).

This process change will improve turn around times as well as provide clinicians with a result that is more clinically useful.

Please contact Dr. George Zahariadis at the Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (Microbiology) at 780-407-7121 in Edmonton with any question regarding the above.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. K. Preiksaitis".

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Dr. Jutta Preiksaitis  
Medical Director  
ProvLab

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Zahariadis".

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George Zahariadis, MD, FRCPC  
Medical Virologist  
ProvLab

This bulletin was distributed to:

- CDC Alberta Nurses Working Group
- Critical Care Physicians, Calgary Health Region, Capital Health
- Deputy/Associate Medical Officers of Health Alberta
- Emergency Medicine Departments, Calgary Health Region, Capital Health
- Family Medicine, Calgary Health Region, Edmonton
- Hepatologists/Gastroenterologists
- Infectious Disease Physicians Calgary
- Infectious Disease Physicians Edmonton
- Medical Officers of Health, Alberta, First Nations
- Nephrologists, Edmonton
- Obstetrics/Gynecology Chairs, Calgary Health Region, Capital Health
- Provincial/Deputy Provincial Health Officers of Alberta, AHW
- Provincial Medical Consultant and Manager- STD Services, AHW
- Regional Laboratory Managers of Alberta, Northwest Territories, Nunavut
- Regional Laboratory Directors of Alberta
- Respiriologists Calgary Health Region, Capital Health
- STD Clinic, Calgary Health Region
- STD Services, Capital Health Region
- Transplant Managers of Alberta
- Transplant Directors of Alberta
- 8<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Clinic, Calgary Health Region