Alberta Health Services

Laboratory Bulletin

Date: **March 23, 2012**

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

From: **AHS Laboratory Services, Calgary Laboratory Services, Dyna*LIFE*$_{dx}$ and Medicine Hat Diagnostic Laboratory**

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

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

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:

- Dr. Don LeGatt at 780-407-8444 or email: Don.LeGatt@albertahealthservices.ca
- Dr. Penny Colbourne at 780-451-3702 or email: Penny.Colbourne@dynalifedx.com
- Dr. Valerian Dias at 403-770-3549 or email: Valerian.dias@cls.ab.ca

Reference:

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

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. James Wesenberg, AHS Provincial Medical / Scientific Director, Laboratory Services
Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Medical / Scientific Director – Edmonton Zone
Dr. Leland Baskin, Medical / Scientific Director – Calgary Zone
Dr. Raymond Lai, Medical Director - Dyna*LIFE*$_{Dx}$
Dr. Wai Chow, Medical Director – Medicine Hat Diagnostic Laboratory