

Chemistry Analyzer Implemented in Prince George

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LifeLabs is pleased to announce that effective May 21, 2019, the Prince George Regional Laboratory (PRL) will begin testing 20 routine serum chemistry assays onsite in Prince George to improve turn-around-time (TAT) for the analytes listed below. This testing is currently sent to LifeLabs' Burnaby Reference Laboratory. The following serum tests will be performed in Prince George on patients from Prince George patient service centres:

- Albumin
- Alkaline Phosphatase
- Aspartate Transaminase (AST)
- Alanine Transaminase (ALT)
- Bicarbonate
- Total Bilirubin
- High-Sensitivity C-Reactive Protein (CRP)
- Calcium
- Chloride
- Creatine Kinase
- Gamma-glutamyl Transferase (GGT)
- Glucose
- HDL Cholesterol
- Potassium
- Total Protein
- Sodium
- Triglycerides
- Urea



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All other serum chemistry testing, including immunoassays and other specialty testing, will continue to be sent to the Burnaby Reference Laboratory. Urinalysis, Hematology, and Coagulation testing currently performed at PRL will remain onsite. The testing laboratory will continue to be noted on the patient report. The tests performed in Prince George will have the acronym **PRL**.

The advantages of local chemistry testing to patients and Health Care Providers (HCP) include a significant decrease in TAT for these 20 serum chemistry tests and more timely notification of critical results to the HCP.

The Burnaby Lab uses a Roche c701, a slightly larger analyzer than the Roche c502 that will be used at PRL, but both use the same methodology. An extensive validation of the Roche c502 compared to the c701 has been performed, and there are no changes to the reference intervals for any of the tests to be performed at PRL.

If you need to call for results or any other questions, please continue to call our Client Service Centre at 1-800-431-7206.

2019 Antibiogram Now Available

Dr. Diana Whellams, MD, FRCPC, Medical Microbiologist



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The 2019 annual LifeLabs antibiogram for British Columbia is now available. 2018 susceptibility data for the most common respiratory, skin/soft tissue, and urinary tract pathogens has been compiled into two separate documents—one for the Lower Mainland and another for Vancouver Island. Susceptibility rates can be used to inform selection of empiric antibiotics for treatment of common infections in outpatients.

The antibiograms for 2019 (and previous years) can be found online at <https://www.lifelabs.com/healthcare-providers/reports/antibiograms/>

Flow Cytometry Request Requirements

Clinton Ho, MD, FRCPC, Hematopathologist

Flow-cytometry or immunophenotyping is a laboratory method with many clinical applications, including lymphoma diagnosis, HIV monitoring, and post-transplant monitoring, each of which requires a different panel of reagent antibodies. LifeLabs collects flow cytometry samples on behalf of hospital laboratories, therefore it is important to choose the correct panel - if the wrong one is used, the flow-cytometry results could be misleading or cause a delay in diagnosis and patient inconvenience.

What this means to you:

- When ordering flow-cytometry, please provide a relevant diagnosis or a specific indication to ensure the correct antibody panel is used.
- Some recommended terminologies are listed in the table below for your reference.
- If no relevant diagnosis or no specific indication for flow-cytometry is indicated on the requisition, a Lifelabs representative will call the ordering health care professional (HCP) for clarification. If the HCP is not available, the patient may be asked to return at a later date for collection.

For further information, please call (604) 412-4528 and ask to speak with a hematopathologist.

Conditions	Recommended Order	Location of Testing/ Days of Collection
Chronic lymphoproliferative disorder, chronic lymphocytosis, CLL, Hairy cell leukemia, Mantle cell leukemia, lymphoma	Immunophenotyping for LPD	BC Cancer Collected Mon-Wed only, and not before a Stat. holiday
HIV Monitoring	Immunophenotyping for HIV	St Paul's Hospital Collected Mon-Sun
Immunodeficiency, Tecfidera monitoring for MS, Ocrelizumab monitoring, Basiliximab monitoring, Rituxamab monitoring, CD27	Immunophenotyping for CD3	St Paul's Hospital Collected Mon-Sun
Post-transplant monitoring	Immunophenotyping for CAAP	Vancouver General Hospital Collected Sun-Thurs only, and not before a Stat. holiday
Hereditary spherocytosis	Immunophenotyping for spherocytosis	BC Children's (BCCH) Collected Mon-Wed only, and not before a Stat. holiday
Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria	Immunophenotyping for PNH	VGH Collected Mon-Thurs only, and not before a Stat. holiday
Lymphocyte stimulation mitogen	Immunophenotyping for lymphocyte stimulation test	BC Children's Collected Wed after 2pm only and not before a Stat. holiday
Chronic granulomatous disease (CGD)	Not available through Lifelabs	Please consult BCCH. 604-875-2345 x7491
Autoimmune lymphoproliferative syndrome (ALPS)	Not available through Lifelabs	Please consult BCCH. 604-875-2345 x7491
Leukocyte adhesion defect	Not available through Lifelabs	Please consult BCCH. 604-875-2345 x7491