

## LifeLabs Earns ISO 15189 Quality Accreditation

Quality of service and quality of care are important to all of us at LifeLabs Medical Laboratory Services. It is through our quality processes that physicians and patients can have confidence in our contributions to British Columbia's health care system.

When we asked ourselves how we could best demonstrate our commitment to Quality and Care, it was by meeting the most rigorous international quality standards. We have met our goal.

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is the premier international standards development body in the world. ISO is responsible for the ISO 9000 (Quality management systems) and ISO 14000 (Environmental management systems) standards.



### Certificate of Accreditation for LifeLabs Medical Laboratory Services

In 2003 ISO created the quality standard especially for medical laboratories, *ISO 15189, Medical laboratories: Particular requirements for quality and competence*. ISO 15189 was updated in 2007 and describes the requirements for quality performance and quality of care for all aspects of the medical laboratory. The standard describes the requirements for the quality system, creation and maintenance of documents, collection and testing performance, and the commitments to continual improvement and customer satisfaction. Assessment to the standard is both rigorous and thorough, and can be performed only by organizations recognized and approved by the Standards Council of Canada.

LifeLabs Medical Laboratory Services BC successfully underwent its assessment in the spring of 2010 and we received our certificate in July. *We are the first full service laboratory in Canada to be recognized by the Standards Council of Canada for meeting this international accreditation.*



*Standards Council of Canada Approved Designation  
for Accredited Medical Laboratories*

## **ISO 15189:2007**

It is with honor and pride that we display our official accreditation certificate and Standards Council mark as evidence of our commitment to quality.

Accreditation to ISO 15189:2007 is a special and voluntary accreditation that LifeLabs BC has chosen to follow because of its international importance and recognition. It is in addition to our provincial requirement of maintaining accreditation and recognition to the requirements of the Diagnostic Accreditation Program of British Columbia which is a requirement for all laboratories in our province.

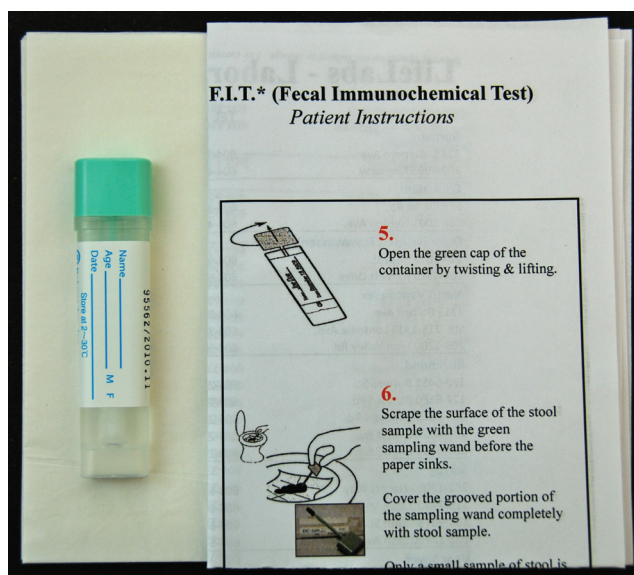
*Dr. Michael Noble, LifeLabs Director of Quality*

## **New Immunochemical Test for Fecal Occult Blood**

A new, more sensitive and specific test for fecal occult blood is now available from LifeLabs. The test is based on the immunochemical detection of human hemoglobin and has several advantages over the current guaiac test:

- A new **user-friendly collection kit** that is simpler to use (see picture)
- Requires only a **single sample** instead of 3 samples over 3 days
- **No dietary or medication restrictions**

The Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) is the same one that the BC Cancer Agency is using in their pilot study. Since this new test is not yet funded by the Medical Services Plan (MSP), the test is offered on a patient pay basis at \$35. To order the new test, enter FIT or immunochemical occult blood on the patient's requisition. The current guaiac-based fecal occult blood test funded by MSP will continue to be available by ordering (fecal) occult blood.



*Collection kit contents*

*Dr. Cheryl Tomalty, Clinical Biochemist*