

# Inside Diagnostics Ontario

The Diagnostic Newsletter for Healthcare Providers

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**LifeLabs®**

# LifeLabs Provides Community Antibigrams For All LHINS In Ontario

**LifeLabs Medical Laboratories is providing antibigrams for all Local Health Integration Networks (LHINS) in Ontario.**

The antibigrams contain information about cumulative susceptibility to the first line antibiotics against the most common organisms isolated from Urine and Non-Urine specimens (excluding surveillance) in each LHIN. For each patient, results are calculated based on the first isolate and excludes all repeat isolates.

Two reports are provided for each LHIN in Ontario. One report includes data from patient samples from the community and the other includes data from patient samples from the long term care facilities that LifeLabs services in each LHIN (excluding Hospitals).

The antibigrams provide extremely valuable information to support physicians in determining the most suitable empiric therapy in each community, long term care facility as well as in the Emergency Departments. It is also an invaluable tool for monitoring antibiotic resistance in Ontario.

**The reports currently posted on LifeLabs website cover the period from January to December 2016. This information will be updated on an annual basis and will be posted on the LifeLabs website.**

**To access the Antibigram Results please use the following link on LifeLabs ON website:**  
<http://www.lifelabs.com/healthcare-providers/Pages/Antibigrams.aspx?Province=ON>

**By Huda Almohri MD ,FRCPC**  
Ontario Deputy Medical Director  
Discipline Head, Microbiology

## LifeLabs Goes With The Flow!

**LifeLabs is excited to introduce an expansion of our flow cytometry testing.**

**Starting on April 10th, 2017 LifeLabs will offer flow cytometric immunophenotyping for hematopoietic and lymphoid malignancies in addition to our existing flow cytometry testing for T-cell subset analysis.**

Flow cytometry is widely used for analyzing the expression of surface and intracellular molecules in order to differentiate and characterize different cell populations. It continues to be a necessary diagnostic tool for the classification, staging, and

monitoring of hematolymphoid neoplasms.

**LifeLabs is pleased to offer a variety of panels to facilitate the diagnosis and/or prognosis of the following:**

- **Lymphoproliferative disorders including multiple myeloma, B and T-cell disorders**
- **Acute Leukemia**
- **Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria (PNH)**
- **Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS)**

### **How to order:**

1. To order flow cytometry testing: Download the LifeLabs Flow Cytometry requisition from our website at <http://tests.lifelabs.com/>

Laboratory\_Test\_Information/Search.aspx, search "flow cytometry" and click on "forms".

2. Select the desired test on the LifeLabs requisition – please remember to include clinical information as this helps the lab triage your request.
3. On the OHIP requisition enter 'Flow Cytometry' under the "Other" category. Send both requisitions with the patient to any LifeLabs collection centre.
4. Each sample received at Lifelabs will be triaged, correlated with morphology, and the appropriate panels will be selected for analysis.

**By Miranda Wozniak MD, FRCPC**  
Ontario Deputy Medical Director  
Discipline Head, Hematology

# Ordering Medical/Legal Chain-Of-Custody Drug Tests

## Medical/Legal Sample Collection and Drug Testing is Requested for:

- Children's Aid (child custody or visitation)
- Family & Children's Services (child custody or visitation)
- Pre-Employment
- School Admissions
- Post Incident or Reasonable Cause/Suspicion Cases
- Court Ordered Random Testing
- Department of Transportation (DOT) Testing

## Medical/Legal Chain-of-Custody Sample Collection:

Medical/Legal chain-of-custody sample collection is best used when a third party is involved and substance abuse results must be obtained. This is done to protect both the party requesting the tests and the sample donor.

The chain-of-custody form is a legal safeguard that documents the proper transfer of the specimens from time of collection to the processing of the sample. This process has proven to be very effective in preventing switching of specimens and tampering.

## How to Order Medical/Legal Chain-of-Custody Drug Tests:

- Must be requested on a customized Contract requisition.
- Call 1-877-990-1575 to book an appointment

**Medical/Legal Chain of Custody collection and testing is not deemed OHIP billable services and should not be requested on an OHIP requisition.**

## LifeLabs ON - Offered Medical/Legal Drug Tests:

### Urine Screens:

Urine Drug Screens are the most commonly requested means of determining "CURRENT" drug and or alcohol use.

- **5 panel urine drug screen** - includes Opiates, Phencyclidine, Cocaine, Cannabinoids, and Amphetamines. Alcohol is not part of the panel

testing and should be requested as a stand-alone test. While Oxycodone is part of the panel testing it is recommended that this drug be ordered as a stand-alone test. The general panel screen only detects Oxycodone if it is present at high concentrations.

- **10 panel urine drug screen** - the above plus Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Methaqualone, Methadone, and Propoxyphene
- **Stand-alone tests/Non-panel** - Ethyl Glucuronide, Fentanyl, Oxycodone, Alcohol

### Hair Screens:

Hair testing for drugs of abuse is the only method available in determining a "HISTORY" of drug use. The same chain-of-custody collection process is used and the risk of adulteration is even further reduced as this is a directly observed collection. Currently LifeLabs does not offer segmented analysis.

- **5 panel hair drug screen** - includes amphetamines, cocaine, cannabinoids, opiates and phencyclidine

**For more information on these services and to obtain pricing please contact Specialty & Contract Services at 877 675-4530 x 42828.**

**By Specialty & Contract Services**



# Changes To Von Willebrand Multimer Analysis

As of January 1, 2017 the protocol for Von Willebrand Multimer Assay requests has changed.

Our reference testing facility, University Health Network, will first perform a von Willebrand Disease (VWD) screening panel which includes VWD antigen, VWD activity and FVIII assay.

**The von Willebrand multimer assay will only be performed on the samples with abnormal VWD screens.**

Please contact the LifeLabs Customer Care Centre 1-877-849-3637 for all enquiries.

**By Miranda Wozniak MD, FRCPC**  
Ontario Deputy Medical Director  
Discipline Head, Hematology

# Changes To Routine Chemistry Tests In LifeLabs Sudbury and Thunder Bay

**LifeLabs is introducing new instrumentation for Routine Chemistry testing at its regional laboratories in Sudbury and Thunder Bay.**

This represents one of the final stages in the standardization of major components of routine chemistry lab methods and reporting across LifeLabs locations in Ontario.

**Transition to the new line of instruments (from Siemens Advia to Roche Cobas) takes place on April 10, 2017.** At that time, a message will appear on lab reports to indicate that the change has taken place.

Due to this change in instrumentation, the reference intervals have been reviewed and will change for some tests. Please refer to the reference

intervals accompanying the patient report for result interpretation.

Please contact the LifeLabs Customer Care Centre 1-877-849-3637 for all inquiries.

We welcome your feedback!

**By Danijela Konforte PhD, FCACB**  
Clinical Biochemist



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