



LABORATORY BULLETIN

September 7, 2005

To: Physician and Laboratory Colleagues

Re: Laboratory Testing for Herpes Simplex Virus Detection

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

With a view to provide high quality diagnostic laboratory services, we are pleased to inform you of the following changes.

1. Effective immediately the Microtrak Kit (HSV1/HSV2 Direct Specimen Collection Kit) (used to diagnose Herpes Simplex Virus [HSV1/2]) will be discontinued and replaced by the Multi-Cult Kit (available at the ProvLab Distribution Centre/Packing Area). This decision is based on the fact that only a DFA (Direct Fluorescence Antibody) test can be performed with Microtrak, while both DFA and culture are possible with Multi-Cult.
2. Effective September 19, 2005, in addition to providing Herpes Simplex Virus I/II IgG serology testing, ProvLab will provide HSV II type specific serology testing. Evidence based criteria established for HSV serology testing will be adhered to^{1,2}. HSV I/II IgM testing will be discontinued.

Please contact the Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (Microbiology) at 780-407-7121 in Edmonton or 403-944-1200 in Calgary with any questions regarding this process change. Policy questions regarding the above can be directed to Dr. George Zahariadis.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Zahariadis".

George Zahariadis, MD
Medical Virologist

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.K. Preiksaitis".

Jutta K. Preiksaitis, MD
Medical Director

¹ Guerry S.L. et al. Recommendations for the Selective Use of Herpes Simplex Virus Type 2 Serological Tests. CID 2005;40:30-45

² Wald, A. et al. Serological Testing for Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV)-1 and HSV-2 Infection. CID, 2002; 35(Suppl):S173-82.