



Capital Health

MEMORANDUM

To: Capital Health Inpatient, Emergency and Outpatient Clinics, Physicians, Health Service Managers, Nurse Practitioners, District Health Authorities, DHW, Moncton Hospital

From: Dr. Manal Elnenaei, Dr. Bassam Nassar, Mr. Eugene Smith and Ms. Faye Lively
Division of Clinical Chemistry

Date: December 9, 2014

Subject: **Referral of Porphyrin Analysis**

Please be advised that due to breakdown of our HPLC system for urine porphyrin analysis, requests for this test will be referred to Hospitals In-Common Laboratory (HICL) in Ontario until further notice. Note that this does not affect Delta-Aminolevulinic (ALA) and Porphobilinogen (PBG) analysis which will continue to be offered on-site.

The cost for a 'Porphyrin Screen' on either a 24 hour or random urine collection is \$12.00, whilst that for a 'Porphyrin Quantitation' is \$39.00. Testing will therefore proceed as follows:

- ALA and PBG should only be requested if an acute porphyria is clinically suspected.
- Samples that we have stored since October 23rd and are sufficient in volume will be referred out for porphyrin analysis and in-house testing performed for ALA and PBG. Samples deemed of insufficient volume for both, will be prioritized appropriately.
- Samples referred out for porphyrin analysis will have a 'Porphyrin Screen' first followed by porphyrin quantitation only if the screen is positive.
- Requests will now be vetted by the clinical staff in biochemistry, therefore we would encourage you to include clinical details on the request form to avoid inappropriate rejection of the request.

All district labs outside of CDHA are kindly requested to refer samples directly to HICL. Currently there are no changes required to the collection requirements.

If you have further questions about this issue, please contact Dr. Elnenaei at 902-473-5194, Ms Faye Lively at 902-473-6387 or Dr. Nassar at 902-473-2225.

CC. Dr. Godfrey Heathcote, Ms. Shauna Thompson.

Thank you for your attention.