



## Clinical Practice Change: Clinical Microbiology

**Date:** March 17, 2014

**To:** **St. Boniface Hospital Physicians and Healthcare Staff**

**From:** Dr. James Karlowsky, Medical Director, and Shirley Hoban, Technical Director, Clinical Microbiology Discipline, Diagnostic Services Manitoba

*Jon Karlowsky*      *Shirley Hoban*

**Re:** **Delphic Registration of Diagnostic Microbiology Specimens Intended for Trans-shipping to Cadham Provincial Laboratory (CPL) for Testing to Cease**

### Take Home Message:

1. Starting March 24, 2014, the St. Boniface Hospital (SBH) Clinical Microbiology Laboratory will no longer register diagnostic microbiology specimens in the Delphic Laboratory Information System (LIS) if they are intended to be trans-shipped to Cadham Provincial Laboratory (CPL) for diagnostic testing and reporting.

Currently the SBH Clinical Microbiology Laboratory registers all diagnostic specimens in the LIS, including those specimens intended to be trans-shipped to CPL for testing. Trans-shipped diagnostic specimens are specimens intended for parasitology, virology (excluding influenza testing), serology, and metabolic screen testing performed only at CPL. For trans-shipped specimens, the SBH Clinical Microbiology Laboratory serves only as an intermediary between the healthcare staff requesting the test and CPL. CPL registers all diagnostic specimens it receives from SBH into its own database (not Delphic) and records of specimen receipt are not forwarded from CPL to the SBH Clinical Microbiology Laboratory. Upon test completion, CPL may issue a final report directly back to the ordering healthcare provider, bypassing the SBH Clinical Microbiology Laboratory, or send a paper report to the SBH Clinical Microbiology Laboratory for distribution by mail. In either case, CPL test results never appear in the Delphic LIS. The SBH Clinical Microbiology Laboratory cannot reprint CPL test results and inquiries concerning CPL test results should always be made directly to CPL.

The SBH Clinical Microbiology Laboratory is accredited by the College of American Pathologists (CAP) and must adhere to their guidelines to maintain accreditation. One requirement of CAP accreditation is documentation that all registered laboratory tests are resulted in the LIS and that a mechanism exists to resolve any un-resulted test orders. Given the current mechanism of reporting for trans-shipped specimens, meeting this requirement is untenable.

This change in laboratory practice will not result in any change in the way healthcare staff using the SBH Clinical Microbiology Laboratory receive laboratory results from DSM or CPL.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Dr. James Karlowsky at 204-237-2105 or Shirley Hoban at 204-237-2073.