

Laboratory Medicine Bulletin

Change in Availability of Vitamin D Testing to Family Physicians

May 30, 2013

As of June 01, 2013 the Medical Services Plan of British Columbia will pay for the analysis of 25-hydroxy Vitamin D (MSP fee item T92460) only if the ordering physician is a RCPSC-certified specialist registered with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia or the patient is <19 years of age. This means that tests ordered by family physicians for the investigation of Vitamin D nutritional status (or any other condition) in adults are not covered by the Medical Service Plan.

Requests for 25-hydroxy Vitamin D analysis made by family physicians will be automatically cancelled with an explanatory comment. We will maintain a list of BC Specialists which will be updated monthly for use in the approval process. If you are a specialist and you find that your 25-hydroxy Vitamin D request was cancelled, please fax a brief note to the St. Paul's Hospital Laboratory at 604 806 8815 with attention to the "Mass Spectrometry Division" and we will proceed with analysis and amend our database as appropriate. Samples will be stored for 7 days to allow for the reversal of inappropriate cancellations. Please note that having a specialist on the cc list will not be considered equivalent to a specialist as the ordering physician.

Physicians are also advised not to substitute the analysis of 1,25 dihydroxy Vitamin D (MSP fee item 92455) as this test is not appropriate for the investigation of Vitamin D nutritional status. 1,25 dihydroxy Vitamin D testing should be reserved for the investigation of hypercalcemia and certain rare inborn errors of metabolism.

Patients wishing to have their Vitamin D status investigated are free to pay for their analysis which is \$61.32 + a specimen collection fee (where applicable). Referring labs must collect the fee from the patient and indicate on the requisition that the patient has paid. The referring hospital will be in-turn billed for the analysis by St. Paul's Hospital.

We thank our family physicians for their understanding in this matter and if there are any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me at 604 806 8919.



Daniel T. Holmes, MD, FRCPC
Medical Biochemist, St. Paul's Hospital Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Clinical Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, University of British Columbia.
dtholmes@providencehealth.bc.ca 604 806 8919