

August 18, 2005

TO: Clinical Laboratory Directors and Managers

FROM: Rita Scheu BS MT(ASCP)
Laboratory Compliance and Quality Assurance Manager

SUBJECT: Communicable Disease Reporting Rule Change

On July 15, 2005 the Office of Disease Prevention and Epidemiology filed a rule change that significantly affects clinical laboratories and their communication with the county health departments and the epidemiology staff from the Acute and Communicable Disease Prevention (ACDP) section of the Oregon Department of Human Services. A copy of the revised Division 18 Disease Reporting rule is included which reflects the following changes:

333-018-0010, Form of Report, has a new requirement that laboratories provide the age or date of birth of patients and specimen collection date. Another new requirement is that all Health Care Providers and Licensed Laboratories provide to any Local Public Health Authority or DHS public health official additional information of relevance to the investigation or control of reportable diseases or conditions including negative test results.

333-018-0015, What Is to Be Reported and When, adds to the list of reportable diseases: Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), other transmissible spongiform encephalitis, and chronic hepatitis C (i.e., not just acute). All positive tests are now reportable within one working day. Blood leads are still reportable within seven days. All blood leads performed on persons with suspected lead poisoning are reportable.

333-018-0018, Submission of Specimens to the Public Health Laboratory (PHL), adds the requirement that private laboratories forward serum from positive hepatitis A IgM tests to the PHL.

The updated rules can also be seen at http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/rules/OARs_300/OAR_333/333_018.html. We urge you to cooperate as much as possible with the local and state health

authorities. It is a challenging job to identify the source and stop the spread of communicable disease or other public health threats. If you have any questions about the rule changes, please contact the ACPD section at 971-673-0980. Thank you.