



# Newfoundland & Labrador

## PROVINCIAL PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK

Dr. LA Miller Centre, 100 Forest Road, St. John's, NL A1A 3Z9

(709) 777-6583

[www.publichealthlab.ca](http://www.publichealthlab.ca)

### MEMORANDUM

**FROM: NL PROVINCIAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORY**  
**TO: ALL HEALTHCARE WORKERS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR**  
**RE: ANTIMICROBIAL SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING (AST) – NOTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGES**  
**DATE: APRIL 29, 2019**

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Dear Colleagues,

Bacteriology laboratory Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (AST) reports currently include the Route Dose Cost (RDC) of reported antibiotics.

The antibiotic dosage regimens outlined in the reports provide a reference of “standard” dosing, which is based on a 70 kg adult with normal renal and hepatic function.

Best practice is to tailor antibiotic route, dose, and duration based on specific individual patient factors (age, body weight, renal and/or hepatic function, etc.). Current reporting risks potential harm to patients.

To avoid misuse of one specific dosing recommendation and to follow the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute recommendation to NOT include the dosing comment on laboratory reports, effective May 1, 2019, the “Route Dose Cost” information will no longer be on AST reports.

For serious, complicated or other concerning infections, the clinical infectious diseases consult service is available for consultation 24/7/365 through EH hospital locating at 709 777 6300; and the local pharmacy service in each RHA for less complex antimicrobial dosing regimens.

Questions related to this memorandum can be directed to the Office of the Director, PHML at 709 777 7233 or [Amanda.Pike@easternhealth.ca](mailto:Amanda.Pike@easternhealth.ca). Patient related questions can be directed to the Microbiologist on Call through hospital locating 709 777 6300 or [microbiologistoncall@easternhealth.ca](mailto:microbiologistoncall@easternhealth.ca).

Sincerely,

George Zahariadis MD, FRCPC

Director and Chief, PHML

