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MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 21, 2016
TO: HHS Physicians and Residents
FROM: Dr. C. Main, Dr. M. Smieja
CC: Microbiology and Core laboratory MLAs
RE: **European Lyme Disease Serology**

Microbiology has developed Order Entry in Meditech for European Lyme Disease testing.

European Lyme disease is caused by *Borrelia garinii* and *B. afzeli*. It is found throughout Europe and northern Asia although it is more common in eastern and central Europe. The clinical manifestations of the disease are similar to North American Lyme disease; however, the initial rash, or erythema migrans (EM), may last longer and have less associated inflammation.

The test can be ordered in Meditech using the code SLYMEU. You will be prompted at the time of ordering to **indicate relevant travel exposure and patient symptoms**. Please include this information in your order. The routine order for Lyme Disease serology has not changed (SLYM).

The test is performed at the Toronto Public Health Laboratory. Initially a sensitive ELISA screening test is performed to look for antibodies to *Borrelia* spp. If the ELISA is positive, it will be confirmed by a Western Blot to look for European Lyme Disease specific antibodies. Turn around time for results is 21-28 days. More information is available at:

https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/LaboratoryServices/Pages/Lyme_Disease_Serology.aspx

For any questions, please contact Dr. C. Main (ext 46111).

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