

**TO:** BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT PROGRAM, SOUTHERN ALBERTA CLINIC,  
FMC RENAL CLINIC, ACH PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY,  
FMC NEUROLOGY CLINIC

**FROM:** TISSUE TYPING LABORATORY                      **CONTACT:** 403-770-3652

**DATE:** 2010-03-22

**RE:** HLA NOMENCLATURE TRANSITION APRIL 2010

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**BACKGROUND:**

To accommodate the rapidly advancing science of HLA matching and the increasing numbers of alleles described, the World Health Organization (W.H.O.) Nomenclature Committee for Factors of the HLA System is changing the way alleles are designated and named.

**CHANGES:**

1. Introduction of colons into allele names
  - Colons (:) will act as delimiters of separate fields in allele names allowing for expansion as needed (A\*3301 becomes A\*33:01).
2. HLA-C alleles no longer contain "w" (Cw\*0103 becomes C\*01:03).
3. Codes will be used to report ambiguous HLA alleles
  - Strings of HLA alleles that encode for identical protein in the peptide binding domains will be followed by an upper case "P" (A\*02:01P).
  - Strings of HLA alleles that share identical nucleotide sequences for the exons encoding the binding domains will be followed by an upper case "G" (A\*02:01:01G).

The National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) has developed software tools to convert HLA results to the new nomenclature that will allow transplant centers to continue to perform searches with minimal impact during the one-year transition period.

Links available describing the changes, use of codes and submission of electronic results include:

<http://www.marlow.org/HD/HLA/index.html>

<http://bioinformatics.nmdp.org/index.html>

<http://bioinformatics.nmdp.org/HLA/Ver3Nomenclature Allele Codes/index.html>

IMPLEMENTATION:

The current format of the Tissue Typing report is able to accommodate the modifications and the laboratory will begin reporting the new nomenclature beginning April 2010. Lists of old and new allele names will be available through the IGMT/HLA Database:

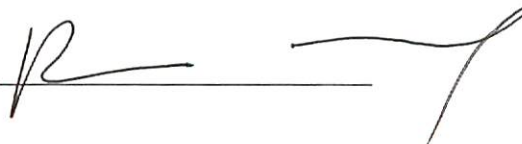
[www.ebi.ac.uk/imgt/hla](http://www.ebi.ac.uk/imgt/hla).

Questions regarding the Nomenclature changes may be referred to the director of the Calgary Laboratory Services Tissue Typing Department.

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Director Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a horizontal line and a final flourish.