



**BEXAR COUNTY  
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION LABORATORY**

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**Prostate Specific Antigen Reporting Change**

Effective November 8, 2013, the Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory (BCCIL) has changed its reporting criteria for seminal fluid lacking the microscopic identification of spermatozoa, the male reproductive cells. Previously, the BCCIL has reported the presence of Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) as confirmation for the presence of semen. The detection of PSA has been nationally and internationally accepted for the forensic identification of seminal fluid. However, recently published scientific studies have shown in rare instances that PSA may be detected in tissues not associated with the production of semen. Therefore, the BCCIL has taken the proactive and conservative approach to change our interpretation and reporting guidelines for the detection of this protein.

The detection of PSA will now only be used as a presumptive indicator for the presence of semen. Any previously published BCCIL report stating "semen lacking spermatozoa was detected" or "a chemical test for the confirmation of seminal fluid was positive" should now be regarded solely as a presumptive presence of semen.

Inquiries about this change should be directed to the Forensic Serology Section of the BCCIL at 210-335-4100.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin Reat".

Erin Reat  
Quality Assurance Manager