

DATE:	2021 October 18
TO:	Physicians, Nursing, and Laboratory Staff at Medicine Hat Regional Hospital and Area
FROM:	Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Hematology Department
RE:	Automation of Select Body Fluid Cell Counts

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Effective October 20, 2021 Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Hematology department is implementing automated cell counts on the following types of body fluid specimens - Pleural, Peritoneal, and Synovial fluids. This testing will be performed using Sysmex XN-9000 technology; specifically in its Body Fluid analysis mode.

Background

- Previously, body fluid cell counts have been performed using standardized manual cell counting methods. Automation of body fluid cell counts for the above body fluid types will be performed following internationally accepted standards and standardization initiatives within Alberta Precision Laboratories Hematology Departments.

How this will impact you

- Implementing this method will increase the accuracy of Cell counts performed at Medicine Hat Regional Hospital as well as give clinicians more expedient access to patient results.
- As previously performed, a manual differential count will be reflexed in response to a White Blood Cell count greater than 5.
- To align with reporting practices already present in the South Sector as well as provincial standardization initiatives, red blood cells will no longer be reported on Synovial Fluid.

Action Required

- No significant action required

Effective **October 20, 2021**

Questions/Concerns

- Karen Ellis Tech II Medicine Hat Regional Hospital karen.ellis@albertaprecisionlabs.ca
- Dr. Megan Brown, Supervising Hematology Pathologist, Medicine Hat Regional Hospital, megan.brown@albertaprecisionlabs.ca

This Bulletin has been read and approved by

- Dr. Paul Klonowski, South Sector Associate Medical, Paul.Klonowski@albertaprecisionlabs.ca