

<b>DATE:</b>	2022 January 24
<b>TO:</b>	All Providers Using Connect Care
<b>FROM:</b>	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Changes to Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR) Ordering in Connect Care</b>

---

## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

---

### Key Message

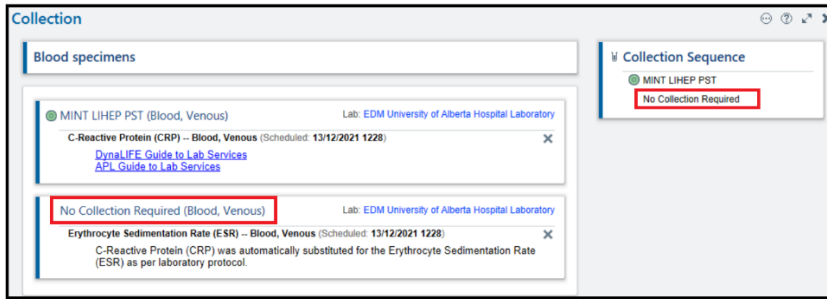
- The Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR) orderable in Connect Care will be updated to reflect the provincial criteria implemented in 2017.
- When ordering an ESR in Connect Care, the answers to hard stop questions will determine which performable tests will be completed by laboratory, an ESR or a C-Reactive Protein (CRP).
- If the ESR is clinically indicated an ESR will be performed.
- If the ESR is not clinically indicated, a CRP is substituted and the ESR is auto-resulted with the comment "***C-Reactive Protein (CRP) was automatically substituted for the Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR) as per laboratory protocol.***"
- The list of acceptable clinical indications for ESR have been updated to include *Polymyalgia Rheumatica, Systemic Mycobacterium Tuberculosis and Plasma Cell Myeloma/Waldenstrom Disease*.
- CRP provides more valuable information than ESR in most circumstances. See memorandum: [C-Reactive Protein \(CRP\) Substitution for Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate](#).

### Background

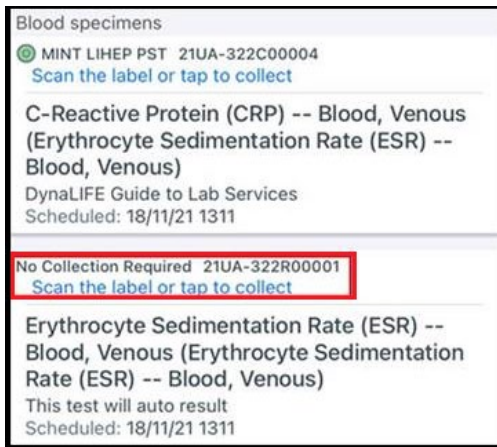
- Provincial ESR ordering criteria were implemented in 2017 but was not included in the original ESR order build in Connect Care.
- ESR testing is inappropriate when not clinically indicated. Currently, lab staff manually cancel ESRs and substitute a CRP when the appropriate clinical indication is not provided.
- The Connect Care ESR order build is being updated to automate the CRP substitution when not clinically indicated.

### Action Required

- Order CRP as a single test when infection or inflammation is suspected.
- When ordering an ESR, answer all hard stop questions.
- If the ESR is not clinically indicated, a CRP is automatically ordered along with the ESR. The ESR will auto-result with the comment "***C-Reactive Protein (CRP) was automatically substituted for the Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR) as per laboratory protocol.***"
- During the collection activity, if the ESR is not clinically indicated, a Specimen ID label will not print and a specimen is not required.
- The **ESR must be documented as collected** for the comment to auto-result.



- **Note:** For Rovers, you must “**tap**” to manually document ESR as collected.



- STAT ESR and approved legacy test codes for ESR will be processed.

**Effective**

- February 1, 2022.

**Questions/Concerns**

- Ann Arseneau- Manager, Pre/Post Analytics APL North Sector [ann.arseneau@aplabs.ca](mailto:ann.arseneau@aplabs.ca) (780) 407-4439

**Approved by**

- Dr. Artur Szkotak, MD, FRCPC Section Chief Hematopathology, North Sector Alberta Precision Laboratories WMC University of Alberta Hospital
- Dr. Etienne Mahe, Consultant Hematopathologist, Medical Informations Lead, South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories.