

DATE:	2021 August 23
TO:	Sturgeon Community Hospital Physicians, Nursing and Laboratory Staff
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Discontinuation of On-Site Thrombin Time (TT) Testing at Sturgeon Hospital

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Key Message

- Effective September 1, 2021 Sturgeon Community Hospital (SGH) Laboratory will discontinue performing Thrombin Time (TT) testing on site.
- TT testing will be referred to University of Alberta Hospital (UAH) Laboratory and the result will be available in Connect Care and Netcare.

Background

- TT was implemented at SGH to guide treatment of dabigatran(Pradaxa)-related bleeding in the era before a specific antidote was available. Idarucizumab (Praxbind) is an antidote now available for reversal of Dabigatran which is indicated in the setting of severe life-threatening bleeding or high-risk urgent procedures in patients with suspected or proven Dabigatran (Pradaxa) related coagulopathy. Idarucizumab (Praxbind) is available through pharmacy at SGH. TT is also occasionally used as a screen for congenital dysfibrinogenemia.
- With the availability of the antidote, which does not require TT testing prior to administration, testing volumes have become very low (<10 requests per year) with little to no urgent request.
- APL continues to review testing practices with the goal of optimizing test utilization and cost effectiveness.

How this will impact you

- TT will be discontinued on-site at SGH, but testing will remain available with specimens sent to UAH. STAT testing is available for urgent requests.

Action Required

- Refer to APL Test Directory for further details on sample collection and transport.
- If urgent TT results (<1.5 hours) are required, please request as STAT when ordering and phone the laboratory.

Effective

- **September 1, 2021**

Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

- Artur Szkotak, MD, Section Chief, North Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories