

DATE:	2022 January 24
TO:	All Providers
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) and DynaLIFE Medical Labs
RE:	Introduction of Cardiovascular Disease Risk Assessment Lab Order in Connect Care

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Key Message

- Effective **January 26, 2022**, Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Risk Assessment will be orderable through Alberta Precision Laboratories and DynaLIFE Medical Laboratories at Connect Care live sites.
- This order provides an enhanced lipid report (ELR) consisting of a lipid panel, 10-year Framingham Risk Score, statin recommendations and target lipid values based on the 2021 Canadian Cardiovascular Society Dyslipidemia guidelines ([Can. J. Cardiol. 37\(8\): P1129-1150](#)).

Background

- The Framingham Risk Score (FRS) is the preferred dyslipidemia screening tool of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society and provides an estimate of the 10-year risk of a cardiovascular event based on the results of a lipid panel and patient history.
- A pilot project providing lab calculated FRS was conducted in South Zone in 2014. ([Can. J. Cardiol. 33\(5\): P682-684](#)) Results from this study show that the use of the laboratory reported FRS with statin treatment recommendations was associated with a significant increase in identification of at-risk individuals and initiation of statin prescriptions.
- Laboratory calculated FRS will reside in the patient's provincial health care record and in Netcare, which has several advantages for patient care:
 - The results can be viewed if the patient moves between Primary Care Network's (PCN) or attends a health care professional outside of their PCN.
 - Having provincial data on at-risk patients in Netcare will enable more targeted development of health promotion and prevention strategies.
 - Having patients' risk scores available to patients in Netcare and MyHealth Alberta will enable greater continuity of care and opportunities for consistent patient education.

How this will impact you

- Cardiovascular Disease Risk Assessment will be available as a lab order in Connect Care and on [APL](#) and [DynaLIFE](#) General Laboratory Requisitions.
 - The Connect Care order entry screen and laboratory requisitions will have questions for systolic blood pressure, tobacco use, treatment for high blood pressure, patient history of diabetes, chronic kidney disease and atherosclerosis, and family history. All questions must be answered to receive the FRS calculation.
 - If a statin indicated condition is checked, the patient will be considered 'high risk', even if other questions are not completed. The result will show in MyHealth Records for the patient and the physician will receive a treatment guideline report.
 - If the history responses are not provided, only the lipid panel will be reported.



- Laboratory reported CVD Risk Assessment will roll out to the rest of the province corresponding with the Connect Care Launches. When CVD Risk Assessment is ordered at sites not on Connect Care, the laboratory will report a lipid panel with standard comments and a reference to the MyHealth Alberta Framingham Risk calculator. South Zone will maintain their existing legacy lab based cardiovascular risk assessment order until they move onto Connect Care in Launch 7.

Action Required

- Update laboratory requisitions to the most recent copy.
- When ordering CVD Risk Assessment, ensure all questions are answered.
- Visit [Project Updates - Vascular Risk | Alberta Health Services](#) to get more information on the CVD Risk Assessment orderable and project in Alberta.

Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

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