

DATE:	18 July 2024
TO:	All Zones: APL and AHS Healthcare Professionals and Providers Performing Newborn Screen Collections
FROM:	Alberta Newborn Screening Laboratory, Genetics and Genomics, APL
RE:	Integration of Newborn Screening into Connect Care

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Alberta newborn screening (NBS) lab functions will be performed in Connect Care as of July 29, 2024. There will be a new order code and new NBS blood spot cards will be put into use.

Background

- Currently, testing and reporting of NBS occurs outside of Connect Care and hard copies of reports are mailed to clinicians.
- To support these changes, updates to the NBS blood spot card were required.

How this will impact you

- As of July 25, 2024:
 - Use the new NBS blood spot card.
 - Use the new Newborn Screening order [LAB14801]. Newborn Metabolic Screening Collection [LAB480] order will be replaced with the Newborn Screening [LAB14801] order.
- As of July 29, 2024, Newborn Screening will be fully integrated into Connect Care.

Actions Required on July 25, 2024

- Cancel any outstanding Newborn Metabolic Screening Collection [LAB480] orders and re-order Newborn Screening [LAB14801]. Use the Newborn Screening [LAB14801] order from this day forward.
- If NBS collection is not completed before discharge, ensure an after-discharge Newborn Screening [LAB14801] order is placed in Connect Care.



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- Use the new NBS blood spot cards with an expiry date of October 31, 2028. Please take note of the new card:

- New cards can be distinguished by the red boxed area.

- Connect Care users: Ensure the collection is documented in Connect Care.
 - Apply the Connect Care specimen label on the front of the NBS blood spot cards in the dashed black box on top left.

- Non-Connect Care users: All fields **MUST** be completed on the NBS blood spot card, please print clearly.

Effective July 25, 2024



Questions/Concerns

- Chi Tran, Newborn Screening, Genetics and Genomics North (UAH), 780-407-2527
- Jolene Yuen-Jung, Newborn Screening, Genetics and Genomics North (UAH), 780-407-2130
- James Fleetwood, AHS IT, 780-809-0979

Approved by

- Dr. Dennis Bulman, Medical/Scientific Director, Genetics and Genomics, APL
- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer (Interim), APL
- Dr. Ross Ridsdale, Lab Head, Alberta Newborn Screening Lab, Genetics and Genomics, APL

Effective September 1, 2023, APL has become the sole provider of all public lab services in Alberta. As a result, community lab services formally provided by DynaLIFE Medical Labs will become the responsibility of Alberta Precision Labs (APL). This change impacts all zones.