

DATE:	15 October 2024
TO:	Central Zone: All Healthcare Professionals and Providers
FROM:	Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Inclusion of i-STAT Lactate with Arterial/Venous Blood Gas Reporting at Our Lady of the Rosary Hospital and Care Centre (Castor) and Coronation Hospital and Care Centre

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Effective October 16, 2024, lactate will be included as part of arterial/venous blood gas panel reporting at Our Lady of the Rosary Hospital and Care Centre (Castor) and Coronation Hospital and Care Centre
- For other sites in the Central Zone area, lactate will not be included with arterial/venous blood gas panel:

Blood gas including lactate	Blood gas does NOT include lactate		
Castor	Consort	Lacombe	Stettler
Coronation	Drayton Valley	Olds	Sundre
	Drumheller	Ponoka	Sylvan Lake
	Hanna	Rimbey	Three Hills
	Innisfail	Rocky Mountain House	Wetaskiwin

Background

- Many rural laboratories in Central Zone use the i-STAT for arterial/venous blood gas testing, however, only Our Lady of the Rosary Hospital and Care Centre (Castor) and Coronation Hospital and Care Centre laboratories carry the lactate-containing cartridge.
 - Sites that do not offer lactate on their blood gas panels have it available on site on the main chemistry instrument (Vitros XT3400) or refer the test to another laboratory.
- To align with provincially standardized Connect Care reporting for arterial/venous blood gas panels, Castor and Coronation labs will start reporting all parameters tested.
 - Lactate will be reported on every blood gas order regardless of whether it was specifically ordered.

How this will impact you

- Laboratories at Our Lady of the Rosary Hospital and Care Centre (Castor) and Coronation Hospital and Care Centre will report lactate routinely as part of blood gas panel reporting, even if lactate is not individually ordered.

Action Required

- Please see the table above and be aware of reporting changes for arterial/venous blood gases.
- Continue to order lactate specifically when required outside of a blood gas panel.
- Be aware that prolonged application of tourniquet for more than 1 minute may falsely increase lactate. Ensure appropriate collection techniques are followed.
 - Refer to [Standardization of Tourniquet use for Collection of Ionized Calcium and Lactate](#)



Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

- Dr. Allison Venner, Clinical Biochemistry Section Chief, South Sector, APL
- Dr. Paul Klonowski, interim coverage for Dr. Krishna Narra, Associate Medical Director, Rural, South Sector, 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.