

DATE:	25 November 2024
TO:	Calgary Zone: All Healthcare Providers
FROM:	Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	New On-site Testing at Alberta Children's Hospital: High-Sensitivity Cardiac Troponin T, Quantitative Beta hCG, and N-Terminal Prohormone B Type Natriuretic Peptide

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Key Message

- Effective December 3, 2024, there will be three new tests available onsite at Alberta Children's Hospital (ACH): High Sensitivity Cardiac Troponin T (hsTnT; LAB139), Quantitative Beta hCG (LAB143), and N-Terminal Prohormone B Type Natriuretic Peptide (NT-proBNP; LAB5122).

Background

- Specimens for these three tests (hsTnT, B-hCG, NT-proBNP) were previously couriered to Foothills Medical Centre because the ACH Rapid Response Laboratory (RRL) did not have the instrumentation onsite to perform these tests
- Through a partnership between the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation and Alberta Precision Laboratories, the necessary instrument was installed in the ACH RRL

How this will impact you

- Turn-around-times for the above tests will now align with those at other Calgary hospital sites (e.g. STAT-priority tested within ~1 hour from specimen receipt by lab)
- As hsTnT testing will be available on site, triaging of STAT-priority specimens using a point-of-care cardiac troponin I test will only be performed when the new instrument is unavailable for testing (e.g. undergoing maintenance):
 - A lavender top tube (EDTA whole blood), if available, will be tested on the point-of-care cardiac troponin I test before the mint top tube (lithium heparin plasma) is couriered to Foothills Medical Center for high-sensitivity cardiac troponin T testing.
- Specimens for B-hCG and NT-proBNP testing will also be couriered to Foothills Medical Center when the new instrument is unavailable for testing.

Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

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