

DATE:	31 March 2025
TO:	Neonatology, Obstetrics, Pediatrics, and Labour & Delivery
FROM:	Clinical Biochemistry and Hematopathology, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	New Epic Orderables for “Bilirubin, Total, Cord” and “CBC, Cord”

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Key Message

- Effective Tuesday April 1, 2025, two new orderables will be available in Connect Care for testing on neonatal umbilical cord blood:
 - CBC, Cord [LAB2941].
 - Available at the following testing sites: CGY South Health Campus, CGY Foothills Medical Center, and EDM Royal Alexandra Hospital.
 - Bilirubin, Total, Cord [LAB2318]
 - Available at urban and regional tertiary hospital sites.

Background

- Testing of cord blood has utility for rare conditions of the neonate being delivered from high-risk pregnancies.
- Reference intervals and cutoffs used for routine Total Bilirubin and CBC testing do not apply to cord blood.
- Previously, laboratories were unable to distinguish cord blood total bilirubin and CBC specimens from routine venous specimens, leading to incorrect result reporting in Connect Care.
- Implementation of these new orders will allow laboratories to identify the correct specimen source and collect data to monitor for appropriateness.

How this will impact you

- These orders can only be ordered on an umbilical cord source.
- Results will chart to the neonate record shortly after birth and will not trend with routine Bilirubin and CBC results.
- Previous procedures used at some sites for manual identification of cord specimens and testing approval are no longer required.

Action Required

- Routine Bilirubin, Total [LAB50] and CBC [LAB293], performed on venous blood, are the recommended orders for most neonates.
- “Bilirubin, Total, Cord” [LAB2318] and “CBC, Cord” [LAB2941] should only be used for specialized cases and not for routine testing.
- Interpret results with caution – reference intervals or cutoffs have not been validated.



Questions/Concerns

- Dr. Art Szkotak, Section Chief for Hematopathology, North Sector, artur.szkotak@aplabs.ca, 780-407-7104
- Dr. Tariq Roshan, Chief for Hematopathology, South Sector, tariq.roshan@aplabs.ca, 587-2314213
- Dr. Josh Raizman, Clinical Biochemist, North Sector, josh.raizman@aplabs.ca, 780-718-2402
- Dr. Isolde Seiden Long, Clinical Biochemist, South Sector, isolde.seidenlong@aplabs.ca, 403-944-3993
- Dr. Jack Rabi, Neonatologist, jack.rabi@ahs.ca, 403-870-9351

Approved by

- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, APL.