

DATE:	14 October 2025
TO:	Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Midwives and Nursing Staff, All Zones
FROM:	Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program (TTM)
RE:	Provincial Transfusion Medicine Transformation Project – Final Sites

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Key Message

- The Provincial Transfusion Medicine (TM) service has adopted a centralized support model linking immunohematology reference labs (IRLs) to all other Transfusion Medicine testing labs through the Provincial Transfusion Medicine Transformation Project.
- The Transformation Project was implemented in stages starting with Beta testing sites that piloted the initiative starting May 27, 2024. The final phase of the Transformation Project will be effective October 20, 2025, as per table below:

Classification	Site	Referral Testing Site	Testing Changes
Non-Automated Testing Sites (NAT)	Alberta Children’s Hospital	FMC	Limited TM testing on site (Type and Screen, Crossmatch, Direct Antiglobulin Test) Guided on site antibody review before referral to Regional Testing Hubs (RTHs) or IRLs.
	Canmore General Hospital		
	Drumheller Health Centre		
	High River Healthcare Centre		
	Peace River Community Health Centre	GPRH	
	Bonnyville Healthcare Centre	RAH	
	Cold Lake Healthcare Centre		
	St Therese – St Paul Healthcare Centre		
	Wainwright Health Centre		
	St Mary’s Hospital	UAH	
	Edson Healthcare Centre		
	Hinton Healthcare Centre		
	Northwest Health Centre		
	Wetaskiwin Hospital		



Classification	Site	Referral Testing Site	Testing Changes
Automated Testing Sites (AT)	Peter Lougheed Centre	FMC	All post-natal specimens will be referred to the appropriate RTH. More on site antibody investigation before referral
	Rockyview General Hospital		
	South Health Campus		
	Sturgeon Community Hospital	RAH	
	Grey Nuns Hospital	UAH	
	Misericordia Community Hospital		
Regional Testing Hub (RTH)	Chinook Regional Hospital (CRH)	FMC	Introduction and/or optimization of advanced investigative tools and esoteric TM testing
	Medicine Hat Regional Hospital (MHRH)		
	Northern Lights Health Centre (NLHC)	RAH	
	Red Deer Regional Hospital (RDRH)	UAH	
	Grande Prairie Regional Hospital (GPRH)		
	Foothills Medical Centre (FMC)	N/A	
	Royal Alexandra Hospital (RAH)		
	University of Alberta Hospital (UAH)		
Immunohematology Reference Labs (IRL)	Foothills Medical Centre (FMC)	N/A	Introduction/optimization of advanced investigative tools and esoteric TM testing
	Royal Alexandra Hospital (RAH)		
	University of Alberta Hospital (UAH)		

Background

- Alberta is experiencing difficulty recruiting laboratory technologists across the province with our regional and rural areas experiencing more impacts. One of the goals of the TM program is to have a sustainable Provincial Transfusion Medicine Service with a centralized support model linking low volume sites with a limited TM testing menu to sites with extended TM test menus. Standardization of testing menus allows for easier technologist movement between sites if needed and provides the ability to support remotely.
- Transfusion Medicine labs across the province were reviewed and were classified into Non-Automated Testing Sites, Automated Testing Sites, Regional Testing Hubs, and Immunohematology Reference Labs.



How this will impact you

- These new site classifications come with standardized testing menus which may result in a loss of some testing for some sites or new and additional testing for some sites; these are not mutually exclusive.
- With changes to test menus, turnaround times may be affected. Turnaround times for post-natal testing will likely increase in some facilities, while turnaround times for antibody investigation completion and availability of serologically crossmatched blood will likely decrease.
- Post-natal testing is not considered STAT. If clinicians cannot wait for the completion of post-natal testing for RhIG administration, RhIG can be issued prior to the completion of testing if the patient was previously deemed eligible.
- Turnaround times and any clinical challenges will be monitored during the pilot phase before additional sites are moved into the transformation.

Action Required

- Be aware of your site's classification and any changes to the testing availability on site.

Effective October 20, 2025

Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

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