

DATE:	14 September 2026
TO:	North, Edmonton, Central and Calgary Corridor Medical, Nurse Practitioner, Midwifery and Nursing Staff
FROM:	APL, Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program (TTM)
RE:	Return of Neonatal Evaluations and Post-Natal RhIG Eligibility Testing to Select Rural Sites

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Key Message

- As part of Alberta Precision Laboratories' ongoing review of Transfusion Medicine service delivery models, routine neonatal evaluation and post-natal RhIG eligibility testing will be available locally at select rural Transfusion Medicine Testing sites. This change will improve access to testing and support timely postpartum clinical decision making and patient care.

Background

- Alberta Precision Laboratories regularly reviews service delivery models to identify opportunities to enhance access efficiency, and patient care across the province. Through a recent review of neonatal evaluation and post-natal RhIG eligibility testing services, opportunities were identified to improve local access to testing in select rural testing sites.
- The review included feedback received from physicians, operational input, service delivery requirements, and testing processes. As a result, routine neonatal evaluation and post-natal testing required to determine RhIG eligibility will be performed at designated testing sites. This change is expected to improve access to testing and support timely postpartum patient management.
- Fetal Bleed Screens and more complex neonatal evaluations associated with positive maternal antibodies will continue to be referred to larger Transfusion Medicine testing laboratories.

How this will impact you

- Routine neonatal evaluation testing and post-natal testing required to determine RhIG eligibility will be available locally at designated sites (Bonnyville, Camrose, Canmore, Cold Lake, Drumheller, Edson, High Level, High River, St. Paul, Wainwright, and Wetaskiwin). These sites will also serve as testing locations for smaller labs that do not perform testing on site, see Appendix A.
- There are no changes to clinical indications for testing or RhIG administration. Existing ordering practices remain unchanged. However, in most cases, results will be available sooner, supporting more timely postpartum clinical decision-making and discharge planning.

Action Required

- Continue to order neonatal evaluation and post-natal testing according to current clinical practice.

Effective

- Implementation window between 15Sep2026 to 27Oct2026



Questions/Concerns

- Dr. Susan Nahirniak, Medical Director, APL Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program
- Richelle Miller, Director, APL Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program
- Nada Nsier, Manager North Sector, APL Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program
- Tanya McKelvey, Transfusion Medicine Discipline Lead

Approved by

- Dr. Susan Nahirniak, Medical Director, APL Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program
- Richelle Miller, Director, APL Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program

Appendix A: New Non Testing Site Routing Patterns for Neonatal Evaluations and Post-Natal RhIG Eligibility Assessment

Rural Testing Locations	Non-Testing Sites Covered
Canmore General Hospital	• Banff Mineral Springs Hospital
High River General Hospital	• Claresholm Hospital • Oilfields General Hospital • Vulcan Community Health Centre
Northwest Health Centre (High Level)	• La Crete Health Centre • St. Theresa General Hospital (Fort Vermilion)
St. Mary's Hospital (Camrose)	• Daysland Health Centre • Killam Health Centre
St. Therese Healthcare Centre (St. Paul)	• Elk Point Healthcare Centre
Wainwright Health Centre	• Hardisty Health Centre • Lamont Health Centre • Provost Health Centre • St. Joseph's General Hospital - Vegreville • Tofield Health Centre • Two Hills Health Centre • Vermilion Health Centre • Viking Health Centre