

<b>DATE:</b>	16 October 2023
<b>TO:</b>	Cardiorespiratory Staff in Rural South Zone excluding Pincher Creek Hospital
<b>FROM:</b>	Clinical Biochemistry, South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Blood Gas Testing Changes in South Zone Rural Hospitals, excluding Pincher Creek</b>

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### Key Message

- Effective November 5, 2023 all blood gas samples will be performed by Rural Lab Staff
- This change will impact South Zone Rural Laboratories and Respiratory Therapists, excluding Pincher Creek Hospital
- This is a change in practice for Rural Respiratory Therapists who currently perform blood gas testing

### Background

- Historically, Respiratory Therapists or Physicians may have analyzed arterial blood gas on the lab i-STAT instrument
- Due to the workflow and connectivity of the analyzers, Connect Care does not have the ability to have shared devices between departments
- Lab i-STAT devices will only be used by laboratory staff beginning November 5, 2023

### How this will impact you

- Lab staff will continue to perform all arterial blood gas testing on the i-STAT if the analyzer is located in the lab
- Respiratory Therapists are encouraged to inform the lab before collecting an arterial blood gas sample to ensure the i-STAT is not in use
- Sample stability will remain at 30 minutes. If a respiratory sample is from ED or acute care, the expected turnaround time is 15 minutes.

### Action Required

- Respiratory Therapists and Physicians will continue to collect blood gas samples
- Lab Staff will perform the blood gas testing on the i-STAT Analyzer

### Questions/Concerns

- Tammy Kaatz, Manager Rural Laboratory, South Zone
- Catherine Johansen, Manager Respiratory Health and Outpatient Cardiology, Medicine Hat Regional Hospital
- Cara Thomas, Manager Respiratory Health and Outpatient Cardiology, Chinook Regional Hospital
- Dr. Heather Paul, Phs, FCACB, South Sector POCT Medical Lead, APL

### Approved by

- Laura Jensen, Director, Laboratory South Zone

*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.*