

DATE:	22 March 2024
TO:	Fort Vermilion and Area Physicians, Nursing Staff and Laboratory Staff
FROM:	Dr. David Beyer, General Pathologist
RE:	Change in Chemistry Analyzer at Fort Vermilion Laboratory

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Effective **March 27, 2024** the Fort Vermilion laboratory will be implementing a new chemistry analyzer (Vitros XT3400) to replace the current aging Siemens Dimension EXL analyzer.

Background

- The Vitros XT3400 is the platform currently being used by rural hospitals across Alberta.
- On December 5th, 2022 the Fort Vermilion laboratory became a part of Alberta Precision Labs and has been in the process of transitioning to standardized provincial testing platforms.
- Testing for serum hCG, Troponin, and BNP will remain on the existing instrument (Siemens Dimension EXL) until the new platform (Beckman Access 2) is live.
- Available test menu is unchanged. Lactate will no longer be performed on the iStat but will now be performed on the XT3400.
- Preferred sample types and reference intervals remain unchanged except for calcium, see below.
- New calcium reference interval

Age	Current Reference Interval on the Siemens Dimension	New Reference Interval on the Vitros XT3400
0 up to 11 days	1.80 – 2.70 mmol/L	1.80 – 2.90 mmol/L
11 days up to 1 year	2.20 – 2.70 mmol/L	2.20 – 2.80 mmol/L
>1 year	2.05 – 2.45 mmol/L	2.10 – 2.60 mmol/L

- There will no longer be a critical value for conjugated bilirubin in any age group. On the current platform, conjugated bilirubin >18 umol/L is considered critical for neonates 0-1 month of age.

How this will impact you

- Please be aware of changes to calcium reference intervals.
- Significantly elevated conjugated bilirubin in neonates will no longer be phoned to the ordering physician/department.
- No other significant impact is expected.



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Effective March 27, 2024

Questions/Concerns

- Dr. David Beyer - David.beyer@albertaprecisionlabs.ca

Approved by

Dr. David Beyer, General Pathologist

Dr. Heidi Paulin, Associate South Sector Medical Director (Rural)

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.