

DATE:	26 June 2023
TO:	High Level and Area Physicians, Nursing Staff and Laboratory Staff
FROM:	Dr. Kaila Crawford, General Pathology Section Chief North Sector
RE:	Change in Chemistry Analyzer at High Level Laboratory

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Key Message

- Effective **July 5th, 2023** the High Level 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 High Level laboratory became a part of Alberta Precision Labs and are 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 a new platform (Beckman Access 2) has been validated.
- Available test menu is unchanged except for the addition of Lactate.
- Preferred sample types and reference intervals remain unchanged except for calcium, see below.**
- 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

- Lactate can now be performed on site and will have a significantly decreased turnaround time.
- 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.

Effective July 5, 2023

Questions/Concerns

- Dr. Kaila Crawford - Kaila.Crawford@aplabs.ca

Approved by

- Dr. Kaila Crawford, Associate Medical Director (Rural), North Sector