



Date: January 25, 2021
To: Central Zone Physicians, Laboratory Directors, Managers and Supervisors
From: Clinical Biochemistry, SouthSector, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
Re: Changes in certain reference intervals, test menu, and reportable ranges in rural Central Zone

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Key Message:

- The newest generation of Ortho Vitros XT 3400 (dry chemistry) analyzers will be implemented in rural Central zone hospital labs to replace the Siemens Dimension EXL (wet chemistry) analyzers.
- The following changes to reference intervals, test menu, and reportable ranges will occur with this equipment replacement:

Reference intervals

- Acetaminophen, Albumin, Neonatal Bilirubin, Direct Bilirubin, Calcium, Creatine Kinase (CK), Ethanol, Lipase, Salicylate and Urate reference intervals will be updated on patient reports.
- A temporary comment will be attached to all results obtained on the Ortho Vitros XT 3400 analyzers for 6 months from the go-live date: *“This result is generated by Vitros dry chemistry. Results from different methodologies may not be used for trending; interpret results accordingly.”*
- Troponin testing will be moved to Abbott iSTAT once Siemens Dimension EXL is discontinued. Neither iSTAT nor Dimension EXL troponin is a high sensitivity method and this change does not affect the current acute coronary syndrome (ACS) management protocols adopted in the Central Zone:

Analyte	Old reference interval	New reference interval
Troponin	0.06 ug/L	0.1 ug/L

Test menu changes

- Digoxin and Lipid Panel at Drumheller, and Digoxin, Lipid Panel and Phenytoin testing at Wetaskiwin will be discontinued on-site and will be referred to the Red Deer Regional Hospital.
- STAT requests for digoxin and phenytoin will remain available when urgently required for acute clinical management.

Reportable ranges

- Lower and upper reportable limits of certain analytes will be affected. Please contact your local laboratory with any questions.

Why this is Important:

- Implementation of new chemistry equipment in rural Central Zone will affect certain reference intervals, test menus, and reportable ranges.
- This is due to the provincial standardization of general chemistry platforms in rural hospital labs.



Action Required:

- Please be aware of these changes with implementation of the new chemistry analyzers.
- It is recommended to establish a new baseline for all analytes, even if the reference intervals remains the same.
- Memorandum for each rural site will be distributed in the coming weeks with the exact go-live dates of implementation.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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