

<b>DATE:</b>	3 October 2023
<b>TO:</b>	Brooks Health Centre Physicians, Nursing and Allied Health Care Professionals
<b>FROM:</b>	South Zone Transfusion Medicine (TM)
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Classification of Transfusion Medicine Testing Services in the Brooks Laboratory</b>

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## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

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### Key Message

- Effective October 17, 2023, the Brooks Health Centre Laboratory will no longer be performing any transfusion medicine testing including type and screens and crossmatches and will be considered a non-testing/stock and dispense only site. All TM testing will be performed by the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital (MHRH) Transfusion Medicine Laboratory.

### Background

- The Provincial Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine program is working to standardized and classify all facilities into specific categories based off several factors including average testing activity, current inventory levels, distance from a hub site, laboratory staff FTE and site clinical programs (with focus on traumas, vascular surgery, high risk obstetrics and oncology). Based off this assessment the decision to transition the Brooks facility to a non-testing/stock and dispense only classification was determined. The Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Transfusion Medicine Laboratory will provide all testing support for Brooks.

### How this will impact you

- Type and screen testing and crossmatching capabilities will no longer be available on site. Patients requiring routine/non-urgent transfusions will have their type and screens collected, and then shipped via a routine courier to Medicine Hat Regional Hospital. MHRH TM staff will perform all testing and return crossmatched units via a routine courier.
  - If the patient requires a transfusion more urgently, a stat courier system can be utilized. Ensure the urgency of transfusion is clearly communicated to lab staff.
- Uncrossmatched group O red blood cells will be available on site for urgent transfusions in which a patient is unstable and bleeding or symptomatic and bleeding.
  - Note: Historical checks will be performed after the issuing of red cells to determine if the patient has a history of antibodies or special transfusion requirements. The ordering physician will be notified if required.
- In addition, plasma units will no longer be available on site. It may be appropriate to consider the use of Prothrombin Complex Concentrates ([Octaplex Prothrombin Complex Concentrate \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](#)) or Fibrinogen Concentrate ([RiaStap \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](#)) as alternative therapeutics in urgent situations.



### **Action Required**

- Ensure all routine, urgent or stat transfusion requests are clearly communicated to the Brooks laboratory staff so they can ensure the appropriate transport measures to and from Medicine Hat for the type and screen sample and crossmatched units are taken and units will be available.
- Ensure the Maternal Newborn Child and Youth Strategic Clinical Network (MNCY SCN) recommendations for type and screen orders in low-risk obstetrics are being utilized.
- Ensure routine outpatient transfusions (including IVIG or other blood products) are ordered and the transfusion date is communicated to the Brooks laboratory staff, so Brooks lab staff can arrange to have the appropriate product available on site for the appointment.

### **Effective**

- October 17, 2023

### **Questions/Concerns**

- Kelsey Jakobsen, South Zone Transfusion Safety Officer
- Dr. Spencer Paulson, South Zone East Regional Laboratory Medicine Site Chief
- Dr. Susan Nahirniak, Medical Director, Provincial Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine

### **Approved by**

- Laura Jensen, South Zone Laboratory Services Director
- Dr. Susan Nahirniak, Medical Director, Provincial Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine

*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.*