

DATE:	5 February 2024
TO:	Pincher Creek Health Center Physicians and Nursing Staff
FROM:	Tammy Kaatz, South Zone Rural Laboratory Manager
RE:	CSF Processing and Testing Changes

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Key Message

CSF samples collected at the Pincher Creek Health Center will no longer be tested on-site. Laboratory staff will send CSF samples collected at the Pincher Creek Health Center to the Chinook Regional Hospital (CRH) - Hematology Department for processing and testing.

Background

Annual CSF testing volumes at the Pincher Creek Laboratory are very low (approximately 2 per year). With low testing volumes, staff competency levels are challenging to maintain. The need for dedicated equipment used only for processing CSF samples would be eliminated.

How this will impact you

CSF samples will continue to be collected at the Pincher Creek Health Center. The laboratory staff will need to be notified prior to collection so lab staff can have a courier (or STAT cab) waiting to transport the specimen immediately after collection. This will allow staff at the Chinook Regional Hospital – Hematology Department to process and test the sample within the recommended specimen suitability time frame.

Action Required

Contact the Pincher Creek Laboratory (403) 627-1218, prior to performing a CSF collection. Laboratory staff will arrange a courier or stat cab for immediate transport to the Chinook Regional Hospital.

Effective February 5, 2024

Questions/Concerns

Shelley Bucsis, Pincher Creek MLT II
Jim Moore, South Zone Rural Support MLT III
Barbara Collin, South Zone Rural Support Clinical Supervisor

Approved by

Shelley Duncan, CRH Lab Manager
Tammy Kaatz, South Zone Rural Lab Manager
Dr. Krishna Narra, Regional Laboratory Medicine Site Chief, Chinook Regional Hospital

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.