

DATE:	2022 July 25
TO:	Physicians, Nursing and Laboratory Staff at Swan Hills Healthcare Centre
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories Laboratory Services – Swan Hills Healthcare Centre
RE:	Discontinuation of INR Testing at Swan Hills Healthcare Centre

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Key Message

- Effective August 2, 2022, INR testing for monitoring of warfarin therapy will no longer be performed at Swan Hills Healthcare Centre.
- All routine INR requests will continue to be sent to Westlock Healthcare Centre.
- Stat/urgent requests will be performed in either Barrhead or Whitecourt (courier dependent).

Background

- The Coaguchek instrument has been used effectively to monitor warfarin therapy for several years. With the expansion of novel anticoagulants, the number of patients requiring monitoring has been decreasing, and Swan Hills currently only uses the Coaguchek 1-2 times per month.
- The current instrument has become obsolete and there is no provincial program to replace the instrument with a newer model. Given the extremely low volume of testing in Swan Hills, we will be removing this instrument from the hospital.

How this will impact you

- Turnaround time of INR for monitoring of warfarin therapy will increase to match all other routine INR requests. If results are needed more urgently, stat requests are expected to be available within 2-3 hours.

Effective

- **August 2, 2022**

Questions/Concerns

- Karen Bland, North Sector Area 2 Rural Laboratory Manager, Karen.bland@aplabs.ca
- Dr. Kaila Crawford MD, Consulting Pathologist, Kaila.Crawford@aplabs.ca

Approved by

- Dr. Kaila Crawford MD, North Sector General Pathology Section Chief