



Date: November 2, 2020
To: Central Zone Physicians, Laboratory Directors, Managers, Supervisors
From: Clinical Biochemistry, South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
Re: Discontinuation of Sweat Osmolality Measurement at Red Deer Regional Hospital

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Key Message:

- Effective **November 4, 2020**, Red Deer Regional Hospital laboratory will no longer perform sweat osmolality measurement for evaluation of possible cystic fibrosis.

Why this is Important:

- Since the addition of cystic fibrosis to the neonatal metabolic screen and the availability of molecular diagnostic methods, the need for sweat osmolality has decreased significantly.
- Sweat osmolality is technique-dependent, and requires experience and competency. The minimum of 50 collections per year to maintain proficiency is greater than the number currently performed in Red Deer Regional Hospital.
- Clinical Practice guidelines (<https://www.cff.org/Care/Clinical-Care-Guidelines/Diagnosis-Clinical-Care-Guidelines/Sweat-Test-Clinical-Care-Guidelines/>) also mandate confirmatory sweat chloride at one of the specialist pediatric hospitals.

Action Required:

- Sweat chloride must be scheduled by the attending physician by contacting:
 - Alberta Children's Hospital at 403-955-7347
 - or
 - University of Alberta Hospital Laboratory Medicine at 780-407-7484

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Yury Butorin, PhD, Clinical Biochemist, Red Deer Regional Hospital, 403-406-5633, Yury.Butorin@albertaprecisionlabs.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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