



Date: December 14, 2020
To: Lethbridge and Area & Medicine Hat and Area Physicians, Nursing and Laboratory staff
From: South Zone (SZ) Hematology Laboratories, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
Re: Discontinuation of Thrombin Time Testing

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Effective December 14, 2020 Chinook Regional Hospital and Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Laboratories will discontinue on site Thrombin Time Testing.
- Thrombin Time Testing will be referred off site to Calgary and results will be available in Netcare.
- Current SZ Thrombin Time Testing volumes are very low (<10 requests per year) and it is no longer justifiable to continue on-site testing.
- There is no longer a clinical indication for Thrombin Time testing in emergency situations.

Why this is important:

- It is recognized that Thrombin Time Testing is not an effective indicator of Direct Oral Anticoagulant (DOAC) effectiveness.
- Idarucizumab (Praxbind) is an antidote now available for the reversal of dabigatran (pradaxa) which is indicated in the setting of severe life threatening bleeding or high risk emergent/urgent procedures in patients with suspected or proven dabigatran (pradaxa) related coagulopathy.
- Idarucizumab (Praxbind) is readily available through Pharmacy at Chinook Regional Hospital and Medicine Hat Regional Hospital.

Background

- APL continues to review testing practices with the goal of optimizing test utilization and cost effectiveness.
- APL Hematology Discipline Council has approved sites discontinuing testing based on testing volumes <10 test requests per year.
- Calgary Hematology Pathologist Dr. Meer-Taher Shabani-Rad was consulted and approves this change.

Action Required:

- Refer to APL Test Directory for further details on sample collection and transport.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Krishna Narra, Hematology Pathologist, Chinook Regional Hospital, 403-388-6063
- Julio Silva, MD, Regional Laboratory Medicine Site Chief, Medicine Hat Regional Hospital, 403-502-8635

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

- Michael Greeff, MD, Regional Laboratory Medicine Site Chief, Chinook Regional Hospital
- Julio Silva, MD, Regional Laboratory Medicine Site Chief, Medicine Hat Regional Hospital