

DATE:	26 January 2024
TO:	AHS Physicians and Nursing Staff at Big Country Health Center - Oyen
FROM:	Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Labs (APL)
RE:	Oyen H232 Cardiac Testing Disruption – Referred Out Testing Required

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Effective January 23, 2024, the Roche H232 Cardiac analyzer at Oyen Big Country Health Center is no longer available for patient testing due to quality testing errors.
 - Troponin T, NT-proBNP, and D-Dimer testing cannot currently be tested onsite.
- Testing for Troponin T, NT-proBNP, and D-Dimer will be referred to Medicine Hat Regional Hospital (MHRH) until a replacement H232 meter or alternate onsite testing is available. This includes testing that would have been completed as Point of Care Testing.

Background

- The instrument used to test Troponin T, NT-proBNP, and D-Dimer has had repeated internal quality control (QC) failures, which indicates it is no longer acceptable for patient testing.
- H232 instruments that fail QC are required to be returned to the vendor and replaced with a new analyzer. Vendor engagement to address the root cause is ongoing.

How this will impact you

- Troponin T, NT-proBNP, and D-Dimer results will be delayed (5 hours) as testing will be referred offsite and performed at MHRH.
 - Laboratory staff are working to locate a new H232 analyzer to reinstate onsite cardiac testing.
- An alternate testing platform for Troponin (iSTAT) is in the processing of being validated for onsite laboratory staff to perform testing. BNP and D-Dimer testing would continue to be sent to MHRH.
- Changes to ordering (e.g., testing mnemonics and interpretation) will be communicated as new analyzers are approved for use.

Action Required

- Please be aware of the current limitations on Troponin T, NT-proBNP, and D-dimer availability on-site and the associated increase in Turnaround times for these tests.
- Interpret results according to associated Connect Care result flagging and reporting comments.

Questions/Concerns

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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.