



Date: November 16, 2020
To: Calgary Zone Physicians, Nursing Staff, Laboratory Staff
From: Clinical Biochemistry, South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
Re: Implementation of General Toxicology Panel (GTP) in Calgary

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Effective **November 19, 2020**, the **General Toxicology Panel (GTP)** will replace “**Comprehensive Urine Drug Screen**” and “**Urine Drugs of Abuse Screen, Routine**”.
- The GTP is a one-step liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry assay that will replace the current two-step screen-and-confirm process.

Why this is Important:

- The GTP is a new liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) method for urine drug screening that encompasses over 80 drugs and metabolites includes amphetamines, opioids, benzodiazepines, cocaine, cannabinoids, and other prescription and over-the-counter drugs.
- The GTP will replace existing urine drug testing methods in Calgary, including the Comprehensive urine drug screen (FDSU) and immunoassay based drug screens (UDSR) for non-opioid dependency program patients.
- The implementation of the GTP aligns with provincial urine drug testing naming standardization already implemented in ConnectCare and on the new APL community general requisition

Action Required:

- Clinical Users:
 - SCM users: Drug screen orderables will be updated to General Toxicology Panel on November 19, 2020
 - Community providers: Select ‘General Toxicology Panel’ on the APL community requisition. If patients are being monitored as part of an opioid dependency treatment program, please select ‘Opioid Dependency Panel’ on the requisition.
- Calgary zone laboratory staff: Order UTOXPANEL in Millennium. Refer to the Operational Update from November 16, 2020 for information.
- A list of drugs detected and reporting cutoffs can be found on the APL Test Directory
- If needed, Poison and Drug Information Service (PADIS) Medical Toxicologists are on-call 24/7/365 to consult on management of poisoned patients at 1-800-332-1414.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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