

DATE:	13 May 2024
TO:	Calgary Zone: Healthcare Professionals/Providers & Managers within Labour and Delivery Units
FROM:	Point of Care Testing (POCT), Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Implementation of POCT Fetal Scalp Lactate Testing

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Effective immediately, APL POCT is beginning to implement a new program for POCT Fetal Scalp Lactate (FSL) testing. It is now available at Rockyview General Hospital (RGH) Labour and Delivery. This testing will soon be available at South Health Campus (SHC), Foothills Medical Center (FMC) and Peter Lougheed Center (PLC). Targeted communication will occur as new sites complete training and implementation preparation.

Background

- RGH, SHC, FMC and PLC previously performed fetal scalp blood pH testing during labour. To overcome challenges and limitations with this testing, analytical and clinical studies for FSL testing were completed.
 - The utility of FSL testing is to rule out metabolic acidosis in a fetus with an atypical/abnormal fetal heart rate tracing to improve support to the patient during labour.

Indications for Testing

- The FSL result should always be considered in light of all other available clinical/diagnostic evidence. It should never be used in isolation to decide on expectant management vs expedited delivery.

FSL Result Interpretation:

Result	Interpretation
<4.0 mmol/L	Continued monitoring may be appropriate if also supported by clinical factors and other available diagnostic evidence.
4.0-5.0 mmol/L	Result is indeterminate. Use clinical factors and other diagnostic evidence to guide management. Consider repeating the fetal scalp lactate in 30 minutes.
>5.0 mmol/L	Immediate delivery may be appropriate if also supported by clinical factors and other available diagnostic evidence.

Actions Required

- Be aware of the **APL Provincial POCT Nova StatStrip Lactate Meter Program** located on AHS InSite (InSite Home>Teams>Lab Services>Our Services>Point of Care Testing>Provincial Nova StatStrip Lactate Meter Program)
- Performance of the required quality assurance for this POCT program **must be followed**.
- Follow the necessary steps to educate and inform yourself and your clinical team on correct clinical usage, testing practice and program requirements.



Questions

Zone	Calgary	Central	Edmonton	North	South
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Approved by

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- Allison Venner, Provincial POCT Medical Lead, APL
- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer (Interim), APL

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.