

<b>DATE:</b>	13 May 2024
<b>TO:</b>	All Zones: AHS Healthcare Professionals and Providers at Narcotics Transition Services Locations
<b>FROM:</b>	Point of Care Testing (POCT), Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Implementation of Urine Drugs of Abuse Testing for Narcotic Transition Services</b>

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## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

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### Key Message

- Effective May 29, 2024, the VeriCheck® Drug Test Dip is being implemented at the following locations as a Point of Care Testing (POCT) program within Narcotic Transition Services (NTS) clinics:

Zone	Performing location	City
North	Addiction and Mental Health – Opioid Dependency Program, Northern Addictions Centre	Grande Prairie
Edmonton	Addiction and Mental Health – Opioid Dependency Program, Edmonton 106th Street Clinic	Edmonton
Central	Addiction and Mental Health - Opioid Dependency Program, Red Deer 4805 48 Avenue	Red Deer
Calgary	Addiction and Mental Health - Opioid Dependency Program, Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre	Calgary
South	Addiction and Mental Health - Opioid Dependency Program, Chinook Regional Hospital	Lethbridge
	Addiction and Mental Health - Opioid Dependency Program, Medicine Hat 564 S Railway Street	Medicine Hat

- The VeriCheck® Drug Test Dip kit has been customized for the POCT needs of NTS and will only test for the following analytes:
  - Buprenorphine (BUP)
  - Methadone Metabolites (EDDP)
  - Fentanyl and Fentanyl Metabolites (FYL)
  - Hydromorphone (HMO)
  - Morphine (OPI)
  - Oxycodone (OXY)
- Please note that **only NTS sites listed above** are allowed to perform this urine drug screen testing with VeriCheck® Drug Test Dip kits. No other site within AHS may use this kit for urine drug screening.
- For **all results** obtained using the VeriCheck® Drug Test Dip, **confirmatory testing** at the Alberta Centre for Toxicology (ACFT) **is mandatory**.

### Background

- In Alberta, NTS provides a safe supply of narcotics to facilitate the management of challenging clinical cases. One criteria for admissibility to NTS, as mandated by the provincial government, is current opioid drug use confirmed by an opioid-positive urine toxicology test.
- To meet this requirement and prevent delays in admission to NTS programs, a POCT program will be implemented at NTS clinics.



**Action Required**

- For the most up-to-date information on the NTS POCT program refer to **Provincial POCT Drugs of Abuse, 6 Opioids Screening Program** on the APL POCT Insite page:
  - [Insite.ahs.ca/Teams > Lab Services > Our Services > Point of Care Testing > Provincial POCT Drugs of Abuse 6 Opioids Screening Program](#)
- Connect Care sites should follow the approved AegisPOC Manual Test Result Entry workflow process for POCT result recording:
  - [Insite.ahs.ca/Teams > Lab Services > Our Services > Point of Care Testing > Connect Care & AegisPOC POCT Middleware > Connect Care Resources > POCT Manual Entry Workflows > AegisPOC Launch Button Set Up for Manual Test Result](#)
  - [Insite.ahs.ca/Teams > Lab Services > Our Services > Point of Care Testing > Connect Care & AegisPOC POCT Middleware > Connect Care Resources > POCT Manual Entry Workflows > AegisPOC Manual Test Result Entry – Drugs of Abuse, 6 Opioid Screen](#)
- Performance of the required quality assurance steps established for this POCT program **must be followed** by testing personnel.

**Questions/Concerns**

APL POCT:

Zone	Calgary	Central	Edmonton	North	South
Email	<a href="mailto:POCT.Calgary@aplabs.ca">POCT.Calgary@aplabs.ca</a>	<a href="mailto:POCT.Central@aplabs.ca">POCT.Central@aplabs.ca</a>	<a href="mailto:POCT.Edmonton@aplabs.ca">POCT.Edmonton@aplabs.ca</a>	<a href="mailto:POCT.North@aplabs.ca">POCT.North@aplabs.ca</a>	<a href="mailto:POCT.South@aplabs.ca">POCT.South@aplabs.ca</a>

**Approved by**

- Dr. 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.*