

<b>DATE:</b>	13 May 2024
<b>TO:</b>	North Zone Healthcare Professionals and Providers
<b>FROM:</b>	Dr. Kaila Crawford, Associate Medical Director (Rural), North Sector
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Inclusion of iSTAT Lactate with Blood Gas Reporting</b>

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**PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE**

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## Key Message

- Effective May 13, 2024, lactate will be included as part of venous/arterial blood gas panels at certain rural acute care facilities.
- Lactate can still be ordered singly when required.

Blood gas includes lactate		Blood gas does NOT include lactate	
Athabasca	Jasper	Bonnyville	Hinton
Barrhead	Manning	Cold Lake	Lac la Biche
Beaverlodge	Mayerthorpe	Edson	Peace River
Boyle	McLennan	Fairview	Slave Lake
Elk Point	Smoky Lake	Fort Vermilion	St. Paul
Fox Creek	Spirit River	Grande Cache	Wabasca
Grimshaw	Valleyview	High Level	Westlock
		High Prairie	Whitecourt

## Background

- To align with provincially standardized reporting for blood gas panels, North Zone will start reporting all parameters tested. Currently, some sites carry a cartridge that includes lactate. This will now be reported on every patient regardless of whether a lactate was ordered specifically.
- All rural facilities in North Zone currently use the iSTAT for their blood gas testing, however, only certain sites carry the cartridge which includes lactate.
- Sites that do not offer lactate on their blood gas panels have it available on site on their mainframe chemistry platform (Vitros XT3400).
- This change does NOT apply to regional facilities where blood gases are managed by respiratory technologists (Grande Prairie and Northern Lights Regional Hospitals).

## How this will impact you

- Some facilities will start reporting lactate routinely as part of their blood gas panel.

## Action Required

- Please see the table above and be aware of reporting changes.
- Continue to order lactate specifically when required.
- Prolonged application of tourniquet for more than 1 minute may falsely increase lactate. Ensure appropriate collection techniques are followed. Refer to [Standardization of Tourniquet use for Collection of Ionized Calcium and Lactate \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/standardization-of-tourniquet-use-for-collection-of-ionized-calcium-and-lactate)

**Effective      May 13, 2024**



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**Questions/Concerns**

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**Approved by**

- Dr. Kaila Crawford, Associate Medical Director (Rural), North Sector

*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.*