



DATE:	2021 March 22
TO:	Calgary Zone: Labour and Delivery (L&D) Patient Care Units, and Midwives
FROM:	Transfusion Medicine, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Labelling of Maternal and Cord Blood Specimens

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Key Message:

- Effective **April 1, 2021**, mislabeled maternal specimens for Post-Partum Type/Rh and cord blood specimens for Newborn Cord Screening (for Rh negative mothers or DATN testing) will no longer be accepted by the laboratory.

Background:

- Since both maternal and cord blood specimens are now being collected into EDTA tubes, there has been an increase in labels being applied to the wrong specimens. Specimen origin cannot be guaranteed with incorrect labels.

How this will impact you:

- Maternal specimens will require recollection if mislabeled. A repeat heel puncture will be required on neonates if original specimens are mislabeled.
- All maternal specimens will have ABORh tested (vs Rh only) in order to detect mislabeled specimens. No change in ordering practice is required by the Patient Care Units.

Action Required:

- Ensure a process exists at bedside to separate specimens and apply the correct labels to maternal and cord blood specimens.

Questions/Concerns:

- Joanna McCarthy, Regional Technologist III, 403-944-8466, Joanna.McCarthy@aplabs.ca
- Nicole Gettle, Calgary Transfusion Safety Leader, 403-944-6399, Nicole.Gettle@aplabs.ca

Approved by:

- Leland Baskin, MD, FAACC, Associate Medical Director, South Sector