

DATE:	10 November 2022
TO:	Prescribers, Nurses and Laboratory Staff
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Laboratory Orders – Correct Requisitions Required

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Key Message

- To address issues that have come to light with the 5th launch of Connect Care, this bulletin is to remind all prescribers that they must be using current and appropriate laboratory requisitions to ensure that the laboratory investigation/test that they are intending to order is what is actually being communicated to the laboratory staff.
- Currently the approved requisitions are:
 - A Connect Care generated requisition
 - The Provincial Community Laboratory Requisition for routine blood work ([General Laboratory Requisition \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca))
 - Specialty requisitions as available on [Forms & Requisitions | Alberta Health Services](#)
- If prescribers choose to use historical, ARIA or personal EMR requisitions, it is their responsibility to ensure that the tests being requested meet the current ordering criteria.

Background

- Old nomenclature for some tests can lead to errors in interpretation of testing requirements since the laboratory staff no longer are trained using those terms.
 - Examples seen recently have been requisitions indicating a Coombs test or SMA 6 panels. These are out of date terms that do not map to Orderable tests in the Laboratory information systems.
- Improvements in the laboratory information system allows refinement of testing parameters. As such some tests can have elements restricted or added as required for each patient's clinical scenario.
 - An example of this that has been particularly problematic has been the incorrect assumption that every Complete Blood Count (CBC) automatically comes with a differential. If a white cell differential is required for management of your patient, that must be specified by ordering a CBC with differential. However, if you are only needing to follow a hemoglobin or platelet count, those elements can be ordered separately without a full CBC.

Action Required

- Prescribers may need to update their requisitions to reflect the correct current terminology for testing that is appropriate and applicable to their patient.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by

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