

DATE:	17 April 2023
TO:	All AHS Healthcare Professionals and Providers
FROM:	Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	New Connect Care Orderable Urate Test for Cancer Patients on the Drug Rasburicase

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Key Message

- Effective immediately, a new Connect Care orderable plasma test “Urate, (Rasburicase)” will be available for cancer patients on the drug Rasburicase.

Why this is important

- Rasburicase is a drug used to treat high levels of uric acid in the blood of cancer patients who are receiving therapy and have tumor lysis syndrome.
- Rasburicase can also falsely lower uric acid levels when blood is collected inappropriately (i.e., tube is not on ice before and immediately after collection).
- A new Connect Care orderable for urate testing is now available and includes collection instructions and a separate label to indicate a separate tube is required for the special collection.
 - A separate tube is required, when it is ordered with other chemistry tests (e.g., potassium), as it may not be suitable to collect the other tests in cold temperature.

Action Required

- For patients on the drug Rasburicase, “Urate, (Rasburicase)” should be ordered in Connect Care.
 - Keep tube cold before collecting and immediately after collection.
 - Deliver samples to testing laboratory within 4 hours on ice.
- Refer to the APL test directory for collection requirements of “[Urate, \(Rasburicase\)](#)”
- Ensure preference lists and relevant order sets in Connect Care are updated.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to

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