

<b>DATE:</b>	15 April 2024
<b>TO:</b>	All Provincial Physicians, Nurses, Pharmacists, Blood Collectors
<b>FROM:</b>	Hematopathology Discipline Council
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Provincial High HCT Coagulation (PT/INR, PTT, Thrombin Time and Fibrinogen) Testing Process</b>

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## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

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### Key Message

- Some coagulation tests (PT/INR, PTT, Thrombin Time and Fibrinogen) give incorrect results when patient Hematocrit (HCT) is very high, specifically >0.55 (i.e. >55%).
- This can be prevented by requesting a special collection using citrate adjusted tubes. A new orderable called “High HCT Coagulation” has been created for this purpose.
- If the patient is noticed to have a high HCT (>0.55) during coagulation testing, comments will be appended to the results recommending “High HCT Coagulation” be ordered.
- As this is rare, there are a limited number of sites that can perform this special collection (by Zone):
  - North: Grande Prairie Regional Hospital and Northern Lights Regional Health Centre (Fort McMurray)
  - Edmonton: University of Alberta Hospital/Kaye Edmonton Clinic
  - Central: Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre
  - Calgary: Foothills Medical Centre, Peter Lougheed Centre, & South Health Campus
  - South: Chinook Regional Hospital (Lethbridge) & Medicine Hat Regional Hospital

### Action Required

#### ORDERING PROVIDERS:

- Ordering coagulation tests in patients with high HCT (>0.55):
  - In Connect Care: Order “High HCT Coagulation” and select which tests need to be performed (see Appendix A below).
  - On a paper requisition: Order all coagulation tests needed **plus** write “High HCT Coagulation” under “Additional Tests” (see Appendix B below).
- Send outpatients to one of the designated sites listed above or found in the APL Test Directory when you search under “High HCT Coagulation”.
- For patients who cannot reasonably travel to one of the designated collection sites please contact your laboratory or the pathologist on-call to discuss.
- Note that if the patient’s HCT was only transiently elevated (eg. due to dehydration) and is expected to normalize (eg. due to rehydration), then it may be easier to just repeat routine coagulation testing.

#### COLLECTORS:

- For the “High HCT Coagulation” test contact your laboratory to obtain special collection tubes.



**Effective      April 15, 2024**

**Questions/Concerns**

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- Karen McCullough, Hematology Discipline Lead, Alberta Precision Labs, [Karen.Mccullough@aplabs.ca](mailto:Karen.Mccullough@aplabs.ca)

**Approved by**

- Dr. Artur Szkotak, Associate Section Chief for Hematopathology, Alberta Precision Labs
- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, Alberta Precision Labs

*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.*



Appendix A

The screenshot displays a medical software interface for a patient named Oats Test. A modal window titled "High Hct Coagulation -- Blood" is open, showing order details. The "Coagulation Tests" section is highlighted with a red circle and contains the following options:

- Prothrombin Time (PT/INR)
- Partial Thromboplastin Time (PTT)
- Fibrinogen
- Thrombin Time

Other visible details in the form include:

- Process Instructions: Order ALERT1 Prior to proceeding, see link below
- Status: Normal, Standing, Future (Future is selected)
- Expected Date: 15/01/2024
- Expires: 15/01/2025
- Priority: Routine (selected), STAT
- Class: Lab Collect (selected), Clinic Collect, Third Party
- Specimen Type: Blood (selected)
- Specimen Source: Blood (selected)
- Submitter: EDM UAH WMC 5B1 Dial...

The interface also shows a sidebar with patient information, a top navigation bar with various tool icons, and a bottom status bar with "PENDING" and "SIGN ORDERS (1)" indicators.



Appendix B



General Laboratory Requisition

Alberta Precision Laboratories 1-877-868-6848
DynaLIFE Medical Labs 1-800-661-9876 or 780-451-3702

Appointment Booking & Locations: www.albertaprecisionlabs.ca or www.dynalife.ca

For quicker access to key test results, visit: alberta.ca/MHR

Scanning Label or Accession # (lab only)

Form containing Patient, Provider(s), Collection, and various test categories (Hematology/Coagulation, Endocrine, Clinical Information, etc.) with checkboxes and input fields.