

DATE:	23 December 2022
TO:	All Zones: Physicians, Nurses and Healthcare Practitioners
FROM:	PreAnalytics, Alberta Precision Laboratories
RE:	Provincial Standardization - Monitoring Maximum Blood Volume for Collection

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) has developed a provincially standardized [reference guide for monitoring maximum blood volume for collection](#).
- The reference guide provides a weight based table for maximum blood volume limit for a single blood collection, and guidance on blood collection volumes within a 24 hour and 8 week period.
- As an exception when blood cultures are requested, the volume collected for the blood cultures can be in addition to the maximum volume allowed for a single blood collection.
- The new provincial reference guide may be a new resource for some zones or will replace zone specific documents which are scheduled to be retired from use.

Background

- Maximum blood volume information is intended to guide health care workers in effectively coordinating test orders and blood collection to minimize the risk of iatrogenic anemia, especially for the pediatric or critically ill patients¹.
- This provincial reference guide is developed from existing documents from each zone and based on recommendations and principles from CLSI standard GP41¹, with the approval of the APL Pre-Analytics Discipline Council.
- APL continues to standardize processes provincially. Provincial standardization eliminates differences between zones, allowing for a more consistent patient experience and test results, and also reduces the added work required to keep several different documents reviewed and up to date.

Action Required

- Be aware of the new reference guide and review to ensure you are informed.
- Ensure the procedures used in your areas referencing maximum blood volume collection are updated with the new reference guide. Although the use of previous zone documents is not a patient safety issue, please update to new reference guide as soon as possible. Discard any previous versions in use that had been printed, and replace with new reference guide.
- Monitoring Maximum Blood Volume reference guide can also be found in [APL](#) or [AHS](#) website

Effective **Immediately**

Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

- Dr. Albert Tsui, PreAnalytics Section Chief, APL
- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Interim Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, APL

1. CLSI. Collection of Diagnostic Venous Blood Specimens. 7th ed. CLSI standard GP41 Wayne, PA: Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute; 2017