

DATE:	21 May 2024
TO:	Physician and Nursing Staff, All Zones
FROM:	Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program (TTM)
RE:	Provincial Transfusion Medicine Transformation Project – Beta Testing Sites

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Key Message

- The Provincial Transfusion Medicine service will be moving forward with a centralized support model linking immunohematology reference labs to all other Transfusion Medicine testing labs through the Provincial Transfusion Medicine Transformation Project.
- The Transformation Project is being implemented in stages, with Beta testing sites having been identified to pilot the initiative. These sites include:

Classification	Site	Referral Testing Site	Testing Changes
Non-Automated Testing Sites	Drumheller Health Centre	FMC	Limited TM testing on site (Type and Screens, Crossmatches, DATs)
	Wainwright Health Centre	RAH	
	Wetaskiwin Hospital	UAH	
Automated Testing Sites	Grey Nuns Hospital (GNH)	UAH	All post-natal specimens will be referred to the appropriate Regional Testing Hub More on site antibody investigation before referral
	South Health Campus (SHC)	FMC	
	Sturgeon Community Hospital (SGH)	RAH	
Regional Testing Hub	Grande Prairie Regional Hospital (GRP)	UAH	Introduction of advanced investigative tools and esoteric TM testing
	Foothills Medical Centre (FMC)	N/A	
	Royal Alexandra Hospital (RAH)		
	University of Alberta Hospital (UAH)		Introduction of post-natal testing
Immunohematology Reference Labs	Foothills Medical Centre (FMC)	N/A	Introduction of advanced investigative tools and esoteric TM testing
	Royal Alexandra Hospital (RAH)		
	University of Alberta Hospital (UAH)		



Background

- Alberta is experiencing difficulty recruiting in all areas of the province with regional and rural areas more impacted by this staffing shortage. One of the goals of the TTM program is to have a Sustainable Provincial Transfusion Medicine Service that has a centralized support model linking low volume / sites with a limited TM testing menu to sites with, extended TM test menus. A centralized support model allows for expertise to be in regional and reference labs; and standardization of testing menus allows for easier technologist movement between sites if needed.
- Transfusion Medicine labs across the province have been reviewed and will be classified into Non-Automated Testing Sites, Automated Testing Sites, Regional Testing Hub, and Immunohematology Reference Labs.

How this will impact you

- Beta sites have been reviewed and classified into Non-Automated Testing Sites, Automated Testing Sites, Regional Testing Hub, and Immunohematology Reference Labs. These new classifications come with standardized testing menus which may result in a loss of testing or potentially new and additional testing for the site.
- With changes to test menus, there is a potential for turnaround times to be affected. Turnaround times for post-natal testing may increase in some areas, while turnaround times for antibody investigation completion and availability of serologically crossmatched blood may decrease.
 - Post-natal testing is not considered STAT.
 - If clinicians cannot wait for the completion of post-natal testing for RhIG administration, RhIG can be issued prior to the completion of testing where appropriate.
- Turnaround times and any clinical challenges will be monitored during the pilot phase before additional sites are moved into the transformation.

Action Required

- Be aware of your site classification and any changes to the testing availability on site.

Effective May 27th, 2024

Questions/Concerns

- Dr. Susan Nahirniak, Medical Director, APL Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program
- Richelle Miller, Director, APL Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program
- Tanya Mckelvey, Manager North Sector, APL Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program
- Patricia Boutilier, Manager South Sector, APL Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program

Approved by

- Richelle Miller, Director, APL Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program
- Dr. Susan Nahirniak, Medical Director, APL Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program

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.