

<b>DATE:</b>	2022 September 6
<b>TO:</b>	All Medical Staff, Nursing Staff and Allied Health
<b>FROM:</b>	Dr. Etienne Mahe and Dr. Susan Nahirniak, Alberta Precision Laboratories and Medical Informatics Leads, Lab Medicine and Pathology, AHS
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Rainbow Draws for Laboratory Testing</b>

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### Key Message

- To align with provincial and national standards, all labs will be changing and/or enforcing the process for handling the collection of extra tubes. For Connect Care launch 5, 6, and 7 sites the change will start with a “soft transition” for 2 weeks, then a ‘full implementation’. Connect Care launch 1-4 sites should already be using the ‘full implementation’ guidelines.
- The practice of collecting extra tubes (also known as ‘just-in-case’ or ‘rainbow draws’) from a patient is not supported. The “extra tube-XX” (or similar) orders that are visible in the Laboratory Information System (LIS) were designed to allow collection of extra volume for the laboratory to complete a test that was already ordered and collected but has had insufficient volume to complete testing. They were not designed to function as “draw and hold” tubes for future orders. Any tubes submitted to the Laboratory without an associated test order will be discarded.
- A more specific summary document of additional changes are located within Appendix A “[Major changes for Laboratory Medicine with Connect Care – South Sector](#)” which is attached and will also be located on [Laboratory Services Calculators and Clinical Resources](#).

### How this will impact you

- Beginning **Monday September 19<sup>th</sup>** for a two-week period, there will be a “soft transition” of the discard process. Extra tubes will be held however RLS reporting to the nursing unit(s) will occur.
- **As of October 3<sup>rd</sup>**, a full implementation of the process will occur with all extra tubes being discarded and RLS reporting continuing.

### Action Required

- Ensure that you and your staff are aware of the changes and be extra vigilant in ensuring results have been ordered, received, and interpreted appropriately.
- Monitor unit and lab collection requests. Phone the lab if you are concerned over a possible missed collection.

**Effective      September 19, 2022**

### Questions/Concerns

- For urgent IT concerns, call the IT Solution Centre (aka Help Desk): 1-877-311-4300.
- For result or report concerns in Calgary contact the Lab Information Centre (LIC): 1-855-570-3600. All other sites please contact your local laboratory.
- Specific lab-related medical questions can be forwarded to Dr. Etienne Mahe ([etienne.mahe@aplabs.ca](mailto:etienne.mahe@aplabs.ca)); Dr. Susan Nahirniak ([susan.nahirniak@aplabs.ca](mailto:susan.nahirniak@aplabs.ca)) or the appropriate medical/scientific staff on-call for your local laboratory.

### Approved by

- Dr. Etienne Mahe, Dr. Susan Nahirniak and Dr. David Beyer, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)