



**Date:** December 14, 2020  
**To:** South Zone Physicians, Nursing Staff and Laboratory Staff  
**From:** Clinical Biochemistry, South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)  
**Re:** Referral of Cryoglobulin testing to Calgary

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**Key Message:**

- Effective **January 5, 2021**, Cryoglobulin testing will no longer be performed at Chinook Regional Hospital in Lethbridge or Medicine Hat Regional Hospital.
- Testing will be referred to the Diagnostic Scientific Centre in Calgary.
- Anticipated turnaround time is within two weeks to allow for confirmation and cryotyping of positive results.
- Results will be available in Netcare and Physician Office Systems (POS).
- Positive results will be accompanied by a cryocrit and cryotyping result comment.

**Why this is Important:**

- Currently there are multiple processes for testing and reporting Cryoglobulin throughout the province. Standardization of this testing is underway to allow for more robust and specific test results.
- Cryotyping (e.g. Type I, II, or III) provides additional diagnostic information to help identify the underlying pathology of the cryoglobulin.
- The volume of testing in Lethbridge and Medicine Hat is low, and higher quality results will be achieved by centralizing this testing.

**Action Required:**

- Order CRYOGRO for all Cryoglobulin testing. Refer to the APL Test Directory for [Cryoglobulin](#) for instructions.

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

- Dr. Dennis Orton, Clinical Biochemist, South Sector – Chinook Regional Hospital, (403) 770-3219, [Dennis.Orton@aplabs.ca](mailto:Dennis.Orton@aplabs.ca)
- Dr. Heather Paul, Clinical Biochemist, South Sector – Medicine Hat Regional Hospital, (403) 770-3634, [Heather.Paul@aplabs.ca](mailto:Heather.Paul@aplabs.ca)

**This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:**

- Dr. Krishna Narra, Regional Laboratory Medicine Site Chief, Chinook Regional Hospital
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