

DATE:	20 March 2023
TO:	North, Central and Edmonton Zone Midwifery Programs
FROM:	Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Provincial Program
RE:	REVISED: Repatriation of Canadian Blood Services Referred Out Testing

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Key Message

- Effective April 1st, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) will be repatriating some testing from Canadian Blood Services (CBS) to standardize resulting and referral patterns within the province. Prenatal testing will continue to be performed by CBS at this time and work is still underway to ensure that those results can also be provided to Connect Care users.

Background

- This change impacts 17 APL sites and community based Midwifery Programs in North, Central and Edmonton zone that currently refer Transfusion Medicine (TM) testing and postnatal investigations beyond the scope of that site to CBS for resolution and resulting. It will ensure that all results will be available within both Connect Care and NetCare to allow for easier patient management within the health care system.
- This change will also standardize the Fetal Maternal testing algorithms to allow for fetal maternal hemorrhage quantification to be performed using the more sensitive and reliable flow cytometry methodology for Rh negative patients. This will allow more accurate Rhlg dosing across the province.

The list of tests that will now be referred within the APL structure include:

Tests	
ABO/ Rh Resolutions	Cord ABO/Rh
ABO/Rh	Cord DATs
ABSCR	Fetal Bleed Screen
ABID	Fetal Maternal Quantification
Phenotyping	

Action Required

- Community based midwives will need to order the postnatal Rhlg evaluations, Cord testing and Fetal Maternal Hemorrhage evaluations using the Alberta Precision Laboratories requisition found at [Transfusion Medicine Requisition \(Community\) \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](http://albertahealthservices.ca), then drop the requisitions and specimens (EDTA only) off at the most convenient laboratory site to them.
 - For patients admitted to an AHS or Covenant facility, all orders should be done using the facility ordering practices (e.g. order sheets, MediTech or Connect Care).
- APL laboratory staff that have historically sent testing to Canadian Blood Services will follow the new internal guidance for referral within APL.

Effective **April 1st, 2023**

Questions/Concerns

- Dr. Susan Nahirniak, Medical Director, APL TTM Program at susan.nahirniak@aplabs.ca

Approved by

- Dr Carolyn O'Hara, Interim Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, Alberta Precision Laboratories