

DATE:	2021 May 17
TO:	All Primary Care/Community Physicians in Calgary Zone
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Stat ECG and/or Troponin Testing

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key messages

- APL Patient Service Centres (PSCs) perform lab collection services and ECG tracings for **routine (non-STAT)** purposes only.
- If you suspect your patient may be experiencing a cardiac event please DO NOT send them to the APL patient service center for a STAT ECG and/or troponin test.
- Emergency departments and urgent care facilities are safe places to provide patient care, with all COVID-19 protocols in place.
- If you suspect your patient may be experiencing a cardiac event and/or you are considering ordering a STAT ECG and/or troponin test, please call AHS's [RAAPID program](#) for advice at 1-800-282-9911 (North of Red Deer) or 1-800-661-1700 (Red Deer and South).

Background

- We are seeing an increase in community patients being referred from physician offices to our PSCs for stat cardiac testing. The PSCs are not staffed with physicians, nurses, or other healthcare professionals who are trained to manage cardiac emergencies. When faced with a cardiac emergency or significantly abnormal ECG tracing, the PSC staff will offer EMS transport to an acute care facility.
- Sending patients to the laboratory will delay your patient's treatment and can negatively affect patient outcome.

Actions required

- Please send any patient requiring STAT ECG and/or troponin to the nearest emergency department or urgent care facility.

Approved by

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