

DATE:	1 May 2023
TO:	Healthcare Professionals and Providers at GNH, GRH, MCH, RAH, and SCH
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) - Edmonton Zone
RE:	Updates to Ionized Calcium Ordering, Testing, and Reporting

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Key Message

- Effective May 6, 2023, select Edmonton Zone sites will undergo changes to the ordering, testing, and result reporting of ionized calcium (see **Table 1**).

Table 1: Ordering, testing, and result reporting changes for ionized calcium at select Edmonton Zone sites

Connect Care Status	Sites	Ordering in Epic	Testing Method	Result Reporting in Epic
Already live	GRH and RAH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If non-lab collection required, order “Calcium, Ionized POCT” If lab collection required, order “Calcium, Ionized POCT” and “Collection by Lab for POCT” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> POCT device 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results will show up in Epic as “Calcium Ionized POCT” POCT reference interval: 1.09 – 1.25 mmol/L
Will go live on May 6, 2023	GNH, MCH, SCH	Same as above		

Abbreviations: GNH, Grey Nuns Community Hospital; GRH, Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital; MCH, Misericordia Community Hospital; POCT, point of care testing; RAH, Royal Alexandra Hospital; SCH, Sturgeon Community Hospital

Background

- Multiple sites in Edmonton Zone have experienced challenges with ionized calcium testing since their respective Connect Care Launches.
- These challenges arose due to confusion around test ordering in Epic (i.e., “Calcium, Ionized” versus “Calcium, Ionized POCT”) and a lack of familiarity with the clinical and/or laboratory workflow associated with each test.
- Effective May 6, 2023, SCH will transition from lab testing to point of care testing (POCT) for ionized calcium. Select other sites (GNH, GRH, MCH, and RAH) will continue to use POCT methods.

How this will impact you

- Please follow the Connect Care ordering and reporting practices in **Table 1** to ensure timely patient results.

Action Required

- If a non-lab collection of the sample is needed (i.e., nurse draw), order **“Calcium, Ionized POCT”**.
- If a lab collection is required, order **“Calcium, Ionized POCT”** and **“Collection by Lab for POCT”** to ensure lab is alerted to collect the sample.



Questions/Concerns

- Edmonton Zone POCT, APL, POCT.Edmonton@aplabs.ca, (780) 407-2120
- Dr. Josh Raizman, Clinical Biochemist, RAH/GRH/GNH/MCH, APL, josh.raizman@aplabs.ca, (780) 718-2402

Approved by

- Dr. Anna Fuezery, North Sector POCT Medical Lead, APL
- Dr. Kareena Schnabl, Section Chief Clinical Biochemistry, APL
- Dr. Allison Venner, Provincial POCT Medical Lead, APL