

**Date:** August 26, 2019  
**To:** Lethbridge Area Physicians  
**From:** Alberta Public Laboratories - Chinook Regional Hospital Site, Laboratory  
**Re:** Critical Result Notification on Discharged Patients

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**Key Message:**

- During daytime hours, Monday-Friday, notification of critical laboratory results for discharged patients will be given to the ordering physician.
- During evenings and weekends, or if the ordering physician is unavailable, notification will be given to the physician on-call for the discharging service.
- Nurses and unit clerks must inform the laboratory of the ordering and/or discharging physician/service when asked once the patient is discharged.

**Why this is important:**

- Prompt management of critical results are an important issue in patient safety and care.

**Background:**

- The CPSA standard for Continuity of Care states that a designated responsible physician must be able to receive and to respond to laboratory results at all hours of the day.
- When inpatients have been discharged prior to their lab results being available, this creates a gap in the notification process.

**Action Required:**

- Either the ordering physician and/or the physician on call for clinical services are responsible for the patients previously discharged from their service, and should expect to receive notifications of their critical laboratory results.

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

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

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