

Date: February 4, 2013

To: Central Zone – Wetaskiwin Hospital and Care Centre
All Physicians, Nursing and Laboratory Services

From: AHS Laboratory Services – Central Zone

Re: On-Site Chemistry Testing at Wetaskiwin Hospital and Care Centre

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Key Messages:

- Effective **February 7th, 2013** the chemistry tests currently done on the Roche Integra analyzer will be moved to the new Siemens Dimension EXL200 Clinical Chemistry System (EXL) at the Wetaskiwin Hospital and Care Centre.
- Troponin I (Tnl) will move from the i-STAT analyzer to the EXL200 chemistry analyzer.
 - The shift from using whole blood on i-STAT to using plasma on the EXL will require specimen centrifugation prior to analysis resulting in an increase in the Tnl turnaround time of about 15 minutes. This potential disadvantage is more than offset by the **increased sensitivity and increased precision** (reproducibility) of the EXL Tnl assay.
 - The upper limit of the Tnl reference range will decrease from 0.10 to 0.06 ug/L.
- Urine Chloride will be added to the on-site test menu.
- Revised reference ranges will be implemented for ALT, GGT and Lipase.

Additional Information:

- Siemens Field Service Engineers will perform preventative maintenance procedures on the analyzer approximately 3 times per year. These procedures will take the analyzer out of operation for approximately 8 hours. Whenever possible, advance notification will be provided.

Action Required:

- As the EXL200 is new to the Laboratory staff, it will take some time to gain sufficient experience to maximize efficiency in terms of workflow and turnaround time. Your patience and understanding during this transition period is appreciated.

For additional questions contact:

- Holly McKay, Wetaskiwin Laboratory Services at: 780-361-4065
- Sherry Krause, Wetaskiwin Laboratory Services at: 780-361-4166

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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