

Date: January 13, 2014

To: Central Zone – Site Specific
Physicians, Nurses and Laboratory Directors and Managers

From: AHS Laboratory Services – Central Zone

Re: Addition of On-Site Testing for Lactate in Specific Central Zone Laboratories

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- Lactate has become an important test in the investigation of sepsis.
- Effective **January 15, 2013**, on-site testing for lactate will be available at the following hospital and healthcare centre (HCC) laboratory locations in Central Zone:

Laboratory Locations			
Daysland HC	Lacombe HCC	Rocky Mountain House HC	Tofield HC
Drayton Valley HCC	Lamont HCC	St. Joseph's General Hospital (Vegreville)	Two Hills HC
Drumheller HC	Olds HCC	St. Mary's Hospital (Camrose)	Vermilion HC
Hanna HC	Ponoka HCC	Stettler HCC	Viking HC
Innisfail HC	Provost HC	Sundre HCC	Wainwright HC
Killam HCC	Rimbey HCC	Three Hills HC	Wetaskiwin HCC

Why this is important:

- Lactate testing is recommended at the time of presentation in those patients suspected of having sepsis:

If the initial lactate result is ...	Then ...
Less than or equal to 4.0 mmol/L	Subsequent lactate testing is not indicated.
Greater than 4.0 mmol/L	Repeat lactate testing every 4 – 6 hours after initiating therapy until the lactate concentration has decreased to less than or equal to 4.0 mmol/L and then subsequent lactate testing is not required.

Note: Repeat lactate testing is unavailable if the most recent result within the past three days is ≤ 4.0 mmol/L. Exceptions to this algorithm will require approval of the clinical biochemist or the pathologist on-call.

- The provincial reference interval for lactate is 0.5 – 2.2 mmol/L.
- The provincial critical value, important for sepsis investigation, is greater than 4.0 mmol/L.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Allison Venner, Clinical Biochemist, Central Zone at: 403-406-5633 or email: allison.venner@albertahealthservices.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. James Wesenberg, AHS Provincial Medical / Scientific Director, Laboratory Services