

Date: November 12, 2015

To: South Zone West
Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Pharmacists and Laboratory Staff

From: AHS Laboratory Services South Zone West

Re: Discontinuation of Electronic Recurring Lab Orders (Standing Orders)

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- **Effective November 16, 2015** electronic Recurring Laboratory Orders (standing orders) will be discontinued.
- Patients with an existing Recurring Lab Order will now keep that requisition to bring back to any SZW lab for their next lab visit. This lab order will be valid for 12 months from the original order date.
- A new Recurring Lab Order will be required every 12 months as per Provincial Policy.
- The new process will be implemented in a phased in approach. When patients present to the laboratory for their next Recurring Laboratory Order, the order will be date stamped for one year, the requisition will be given back to the patient. Patients will be instructed on the change as well as have a letter to help with compliance.
- If a patient presents with an expired Recurring order, the order will be processed that time and the patient instructed to return to the doctor for assessment to ensure that the Recurring order supports that patient's care.
- Recurring Lab Order requisition (regular lab requisition) will include the following information:
 - Complete patient information
 - Clear indication of responsible practitioner
 - Effective/Start Date and Expiry Date – if expiry not indicated, laboratory will add an expiry of one year
 - Frequency of testing
 - Routine testing only

Why is this important?

- Annual assessment of recurring order ensures that the patient's testing requests supports the patients ongoing health care needs while managing utilization.
- Current process is cumbersome, and the electronic system does not allow for dating of the Recurring order.
- New Policy allows for a sustainable program dealing with increased recurring lab orders in South Zone
- Laboratory Services Policy on Recurring Orders for Outpatients took effect on September 2, 2014.

Action Required:

- Physician or other health care provider assess patient annually and gives patient a new recurring order if required.
- Posters will also be available at local laboratories to help communicate to patients.
- Patients will be given an Instruction letter explaining the Recurring Lab Order process.

For additional questions contact:

- Ron Schulz, SZ Lab Quality Coordinator - 403-563-7751 (mobile)
- Barbara Collin, CRH Accession Supervisor - 403-388-6109
- Cheryl Gruninger Community Support Technologist III - 403-388-6210

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:
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