Date: May 4, 2020  
To: All Calgary Zone Physicians and Healthcare Providers; and APL Managers and Supervisors, MLT II/III, LIC, Accessioning, Clinical Biochemists  
From: Clinical Biochemistry, South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)  
Re: Discontinuation of Serum Lithium measurement in High River and Plasma Digoxin and Phenytoin measurement in Strathmore and High River

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Key Message:

- Effective **May 1, 2020**, serum lithium will no longer be measured at High River Hospital, and plasma digoxin and phenytoin will no longer be measured at Strathmore District Health Services and High River Hospital.

- Referral Patterns are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimen source</th>
<th>Analyte</th>
<th>Performing Lab</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High River</td>
<td>Lithium</td>
<td>Foothills Medical Center (FMC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Digoxin &amp; Phenytoin</td>
<td>South Health Campus (SHC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strathmore</td>
<td>Digoxin &amp; Phenytoin</td>
<td>Peter Lougheed Center (PLC)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Anticipated turnaround time for Stat requests is 2 hours.

Why this is Important:

- Requests for digoxin, phenytoin and lithium assays are not frequent enough to justify maintaining costly quality control analysis and external proficiency testing.

Action Required:

- No change in ordering is required. Samples will be redirected automatically by the Chemistry laboratory.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Jessica Gifford, PhD, Clinical Biochemist, 403-770-3779, Jessica.Gifford@albertaprecisionlabs.ca
- Amid Abdullah, MD, General Pathologist, 403-770-3670, Amid.Abdullah@albertaprecisionlabs.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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