

Date: December 6, 2016
To: South Zone Physicians
From: AHS Laboratory Services
Re: Discontinuation of Sweat Testing

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Key Messages:

- Effective Jan 3, 2017, South Zone Laboratories will no longer perform Sweat Testing for evaluation of possible cystic fibrosis.

Why this is important:

- Since the introduction of screening for cystic fibrosis screening in the neonatal metabolic screen and the availability of molecular diagnostic methods, ordering practices have decreased significantly.
- Clinical Practice guidelines indicate sweat testing is a very technique dependent procedure which requires experience and competency. The minimum number of tests required per year to maintain proficiency is 50 collections per year, which we are no longer meeting.
- Clinical Practice guidelines also mandate confirmatory sweat chloride testing at one of the specialist pediatric hospitals, therefore testing may be repeated elsewhere.
- Cost avoidance to replace aging equipment.

Action Required:

- If sweat testing is required, contact Alberta Children's Hospital at 403-955-7347 to book.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- SZE – Jill Cavan, Chemistry MLT II at Jill.Cavan@ahs.ca or 403-502-8648 ext. 1536
- SZE – Dr. Michael O'Connor, Pathologist at 403-529-8867
- SZW – Connie Hoffart, Chemistry MLT III at Connie.Hoffart@ahs.ca or 403-388-6092

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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