

Date: January 18, 2016

To: South Zone West:
Physicians, Nursing Staff and Laboratory Staff

From: AHS Laboratory Services South Zone West

Re: Fluid for pH Analysis

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- Effective immediately, **PLEURAL FLUID** will be the ONLY acceptable sample type for fluid pH analysis.
- The literature indicates no clinical utility of measuring pH in pericardial or peritoneal fluids:
Body Fluid Analysis: Clinical utility and applicability of published studies to guide interpretation of today's laboratory testing in serous fluids; Darci R. Block and Alicia Algeciras-Schimmich; Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA; 5 August 2013
- Pleural fluid samples should be collected into a heparinized PICO syringe (preferred) or sodium heparinized vacutainer (alternate). Anaerobic conditions must be maintained for accurate results.

Why this is important:

- The Chemistry analyzer that performs pH analysis is a whole blood analyzer. The manufacturer supports pleural fluid analysis only (validation has not been done for peritoneal or pericardial).
- Pleural fluid samples collected into containers other than the above will not be processed.
- Pericardial or Peritoneal fluids will not be analyzed.

Action Required:

- Update will be provided for Body Fluid Tray Instructions.
- Update will be provided for Guide to Lab Services.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Connie Hoffart, Chemistry Tech III at Connie.Hoffart@ahs.ca or 403-388-6092
Dr. Michael Wendelboe, Pathologist at Michael.Wendelboe@ahs.ca or 403-388-6095

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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