

Date: October 23, 2019
To: All Zones Physicians, Healthcare Providers and Nursing Staff
From: Dr. Susan Nahirniak, Associate Medical Director, North Sector, Alberta Public Laboratories (APL)
Re: Highlight of Laboratory Changes with Connect Care Launch

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Connect Care is a major transformation in the health care delivery across the province of Alberta. There has been an attempt to standardize laboratory nomenclature, reporting and processes to ensure that a single Electronic Medical Record will be feasible. As a result, there have been many changes to that will be visible to front end health providers. This bulletin provides a highlight of some of these changes within the laboratory. More specific details are available within the appendix **“Major changes for Laboratory Medicine with Connect care”** which will soon be located on the Laboratory Clinical resource page at: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/lab/Page3293.aspx>
- **As of November 3:**
 - All of the laboratory functions provided by the APL laboratories based at the University of Alberta Hospital, Cross Cancer Institute, East Edmonton Health Centre and those provided by DynaLIFE Medical Labs will be transitioning to the new laboratory systems.
 - Anatomic Pathology and Transfusion medicine will transition at **all** sites across the Edmonton Zone and select sites within North Zone.
 - Microbiology testing provided by the ProvLab University of Alberta microbiology lab (bacterial and fungal cultures, CT/GC, and *C. difficile* tests) will transition on November 3rd, but all other Public Health Laboratory (ProvLab) testing will not transition until October 2021.
- **Ordering laboratory testing**
 - If you are in an environment live with Connect Care (EPIC):
 - Order using the electronic orders built into the system.
 - If test is not found in system, use legacy process.
 - If you are in an environment that is not live with Connect Care:
 - Continue to use your current ordering practice with the applicable requisitions or EMR (ie. Meditech and SCM). <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/lab/Page3320.aspx>
 - Please be aware that there is a new provincial general laboratory requisition as communicated earlier this month (<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/lab/wf-lab-bulletin-now-available-new-provincial-general-laboratory-requisition-dynalife-version.pdf>).
 - Please provide both your current ordering ID codes as well as the new Provider ID and submitter location ID codes on the requisitions. For more information on the Provider and Submitter IDs please refer to www.ahs.ca/ccproviderbridge.
- **Test names**
 - Many test names have changed. Within Connect Care, the historical names have frequently been added as synonyms. The Alberta Health Services Laboratory Test Directory and Collection Information Guide (aka Guide to Lab Services) contains

information with the legacy system names as well as the new Connect Care Terminology. It can be found at <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/lab/Page3217.aspx>.

- **Reference Ranges**

- Whenever feasible standardization of reference ranges have been established. There have been a significant number of changes to reference ranges that requires clinicians to check the full test result with the new reference range to ensure that they are correlating the results appropriately for their patient context. Please see the appendix.
- Gender X and Gender Unknown reference ranges have now been created that span the highest and lowest value limits of the male and female parameters. Extra caution is advised in interpreting the results within your individual patient's clinical presentation.

- **Results**

- Reports
 - The formatting of most reports viewed in or being reported from Connect Care sites will have changed. If you have concerns regarding the format and content please contact Client Response or the appropriate staff on-call for the relevant lab area.
 - Any testing ordered within EPIC but performed at a laboratory which is not live on Beaker will not flag to an EPIC inbasket. They will be available within EPIC for results review and on NetCare.
- Result routing
 - For providers in environments not live with Connect Care, results will continue to be provided to you as they are in current state (eg. Print, fax or e-delivery) but extra vigilance is requested to ensure that the results are correct, being received and are going to the correct locations.
 - More information on results routing can be found on <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page16724.aspx>.
 - All laboratory results will also continue to be sent to NetCare.
 - Results will not flow from the new lab systems to Aria.
- NetCare folders
 - Some results will now be filing under different NetCare folders than they have historically. If you are unable to find a result, please use the search function within NetCare for the test report you are seeking.

Why this is important:

- Awareness of the many changes will help clinicians find the information needed to continue to provide patient care.

Action required:

- Ensure that you and your staff are aware that there is a need to be extra vigilant in ensuring results have been ordered correctly, received appropriately and interpreted appropriately despite the changes. If you have concerns regarding the format and content please contact Client Response or the appropriate staff on-call for the relevant lab area.

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Susan Nahirniak, North Sector Associate Medical Director, Alberta Public Laboratories (APL)