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**Date:** October 16, 2020  
**To:** Wave 2 - Edmonton Zone Suburban Sites  
**From:** Dr. Susan Nahirniak, Associate Medical Director, North Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)  
**Re:** Highlight of Laboratory Changes with Connect Care Wave 2 Launch

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**Key Message:**

- As part of the Connect Care transformation for the health care delivery in the province of Alberta, there has been standardization in laboratory nomenclature, reporting and processes to ensure that a single Electronic Medical Record will be feasible. This bulletin provides a highlight of some of these changes applicable to laboratory processes. A summary document of additional changes are located within the appendix “*Major changes for Laboratory Medicine with Connect Care*” which can be found on the [Laboratory Services Calculators and Clinical Resources](#) website.
- As of October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, all of the laboratory functions provided by Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) based at the Sturgeon Community Hospital, Strathcona Community Hospital, Fort Saskatchewan Community Hospital, Leduc Community Hospital, Devon General Hospital, Northeast Community Health Centre, Westview Health Centre, Morinville Clinic Building and Gibbons Health Unit (aka Edmonton Zone Suburban Rural sites) will be performed using new Connect Care laboratory systems.
  - The laboratory system at the Redwater Health Centre will also be transitioning even though the clinical go live will not occur until Wave 7.
  - No laboratory testing changes will occur with respect to anatomic pathology, transfusion medicine or testing that are typically is referred to other APL, DynaLIFE or external reference laboratories.
  - No changes will occur to laboratory processes for sites outside of Wave 2.

**Ordering laboratory testing:**

- If you are in an environment live with Connect Care (EPIC):
  - Order using the electronic orders built into the system.
  - Please **print** the Connect Care laboratory orders as a requisition if:
    - a) The sample is an anatomic pathology specimen.
    - b) Your patient is to have the testing collected as an outpatient.
  - If you are attempting to order an “add-on” test, the system will only allow the electronic requests if the *specimen* is located at the site that the prescriber is logged into. If you are aware that an appropriate specimen exists and the option for electronic add-on is not available, please follow your site specific historical add-on request process - phone call vs. [Add-On/Order Modification Laboratory Test Requisition](#).
- If you are in an AHS environment that is not live with Connect Care:
  - Continue to use your current ordering practice with the applicable requisitions or EMR (e.g. Meditech and SCM).



- If you are a community provider:
  - Please refer to the [September 2020 edition of the Connect Care Community Provider Update](#) and the [Connect Care Bridges Blog](#) more information.

### **Test names:**

- Many test names have changed. Within Connect Care, the historical names have been added as synonyms. The Alberta Precision Laboratories [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.

### **Specimen Collection:**

There are several resources available with respect to non-laboratory specimen collection processes within the Epic Knowledge Library and Learning Home Dashboard.

A separate bulletin outlining specific process changes for Point of Care Testing (POCT) has also been issued.

### **Results:**

- Reports:
  - The formatting of most reports viewed in or being reported from Connect Care sites will change.
- Result routing
  - All laboratory results will continue to be sent to NetCare.
  - Similar to Wave 1 testing laboratories, results from Wave 2 laboratories will not flow to Aria.
  - External send out testing / referral testing reports will either be available for viewing within Connect Care as a scanned result or will be faxed to the original requesting practitioner. Due to the nature of some of these reports, the scans are typically not accepted by NetCare or many downstream EMR systems.
  - For providers at Wave 2 sites, there may be a transition period for routing of offsite testing collected prior to cutover. Ongoing monitoring of historical delivery systems is recommended.
  - For providers in environments not live with Connect Care, results should continue to be provided to you as they are in current state (e.g. print, fax or eDelivery).

### **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 of the upcoming changes. Also, there is a need to be extra vigilant in ensuring tests have been ordered correctly, as well as results are received and interpreted appropriately despite the changes.
- If you have concerns regarding the format and content, please contact Client Response (780-407-7484) 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)