

**Date:** October 22, 2014

**To:** South Zone – West  
Physicians and Nursing Staff at Chinook Regional Hospital  
ALL Laboratory Staff

**From:** AHS Laboratory and Cardio-Respiratory Services – South Zone (West)

**Re:** Implementation of Blood Gas Analyzer (Radiometer ABL90) in Laboratory

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**Key Messages:**

- The Chinook Regional Hospital Laboratory is implementing the Radiometer ABL90 Blood Gas analyzer in the Chemistry department.
- Effective October 23, 2014, the current Chemistry test menu will be expanded to include:
  - Venous Blood Gases including Ionized Calcium, Lactate and Co-oximetry (Methemoglobin, Carboxyhemoglobin, Total Hemoglobin)
  - Cord Blood Gases (arterial/venous)
- The Laboratory Accession department will continue to procure venous blood samples.
- Sample analysis for the above tests will now be performed by the Laboratory (previously performed by Cardio-Respiratory).
- Venous blood gas samples required for the Sepsis Protocol in ICU will continue to be collected by ICU personnel and analyzed by Cardio-Respiratory. The Meditech test mnemonic will be BGVR.
- Arterial blood gas analysis will remain as per current practices.

**Why this is important:**

- Streamline venous and cord blood gas testing for patients in Chinook Regional Hospital.
- To standardize blood gas testing services in South Zone.

**Action Required:**

- New ordering mnemonics for Laboratory are:

Test	Mnemonic	Collected by
Blood Gas Cord Arterial	BGCORDAL	Physician
Blood Gas Cord Venous	BGCORDVL	Physician
Blood Gas Venous	BGVL	Laboratory
Carboxyhemoglobin (Rural only)	COHBVL	Laboratory
Methemoglobin (Rural only)	METHBVL	Laboratory
Lactate Venous	LACVL	Laboratory
Ionized Calcium Venous	CAI1	Laboratory

- LACVR, CAIGVR, METHBVR and COHBVR have been made non-orderable in Meditech.

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

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**This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:**

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