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**Date:** July 2, 2019  
**To:** Milk River: Physicians, Nurse Managers, Educators and Practitioners, Midwives, Laboratory Staff  
**From:** APL Point of Care Testing, South Zone  
**Re:** Milk River Emergency Department Abbott iSTAT Analyzer

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**Key Message:**

- Effective July 3, 2019, Abbott iSTAT analyzer will be live in the Milk River Emergency Department as a Point of Care Testing (POCT) analyzer
- Test menu:
  - Troponin Cartridge: Troponin I
  - Chem8+ Cartridge: Electrolytes, Glucose, Urea, Total CO<sub>2</sub>, Creatinine, Hematocrit, Hemoglobin (ionized calcium not available)
  - CG4+ Cartridge: pH, PCO<sub>2</sub>, PO<sub>2</sub>, Lactate, HCO<sub>3</sub>, sO<sub>2</sub>, Base Excess

**Why this is important:**

- iSTAT requested by onsite physicians to have point of care testing in the emergency department and standardization of patient care access across South Zone
- The iSTAT can be used in the emergency department after regular scheduled hours by certified non-laboratory personnel

**Action Required:**

- All nursing staff are required to obtain and maintain certification in the iSTAT analyzer and phlebotomy
- Quality Control (simulator, monthly and external proficiency testing) will be performed by onsite laboratory
- POCT staff will be training nursing staff in the use of the analyzer, onsite laboratory staff will be providing onsite support for the operation of the analyzer and phlebotomy
- Point of Care Staff will provide support to laboratory and non-laboratory operators

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

- Kristin Hobson, South Zone Point of Care Tech II – [kristin.hobson@albertapubliclabs.ca](mailto:kristin.hobson@albertapubliclabs.ca) or 403-502-8648 x1578
- Siva Savudan, Site Manager Milk River - [Sivakumar.Savudan@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Sivakumar.Savudan@albertahealthservices.ca) or 403-647-5506

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

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