

Date: January 14, 2014

To: North Zone - Former Aspen Region and Former Peace Country Health Region
Physicians, Nurse Managers, Educators and Practitioners, Laboratory Directors and Managers

From: AHS Laboratory Services

Re: Addition of On-Site Testing for Lactate in North Zone Laboratories ****Revised****

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- Lactate has become an important test in the investigation of sepsis.
- Effective January 20, 2014, on-site testing for lactate will be available at the following hospital and healthcare centre (HCC) laboratory locations (for sites not listed here, test availability is already in place):

Laboratory Site		
Athabasca HCC	George McDougall HCC - Smoky Lake	St. Therese - St. Paul HCC
Beaverlodge Municipal Hospital	Manning CHC	Swan Hills HCC
Boyle HCC	Mayerthorpe HCC	Valleyview HC
Cold Lake HCC	Sacred Heart CHC - McLennan	Wabasca / Desmarais HCC
Elk Point HCC	Seton HCC - Jasper	Westlock HCC
Fairview Health Complex	Slave Lake HCC	Whitecourt HCC
Fox Creek HCC	Spirit River - Central Peace HC	

Why this is important:

- Lactate testing is recommended at the time of presentation in those patients suspected of having sepsis:

If the initial lactate result is ...	Then ...
Less than or equal to 4.0 mmol/L	Subsequent lactate testing is not indicated
Greater than 4.0 mmol/L	Repeat lactate testing every 4 – 6 hours after initiating therapy until the lactate concentration has decreased to less than or equal to 4.0 mmol/L and then subsequent lactate testing is not required.

Note: Repeat lactate testing is unavailable if the most recent result within the past three days is ≤ 4.0 mmol/L. Exceptions to this algorithm will require approval of the clinical biochemist or the pathologist on-call.

- The provincial reference range for lactate is 0.5 – 2.2 mmol/L.
- The provincial critical value, important for sepsis investigation, is greater than 4.0 mmol/L.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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