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**Date:** September 8, 2020  
**To:** Chinook Regional Hospital Radiologists, Lethbridge and Area Diagnostic Imaging and Laboratory Staff  
**From:** Clinical Biochemistry, South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)  
**Re:** Pleural Fluid for pH Collection

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## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

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### Key Message:

- Effective September 14, 2020, pleural fluid samples for pH must be collected anaerobically into a balanced heparinized blood gas syringe (*safePICO*® syringe).
- Samples must not be exposed to air.
- Ensure that all bubbles are expelled from syringe.
- Samples collected in alternate containers will not be accepted.

### Why this is Important:

- Exposure of the sample to air leads to a clinically significant increase in pH, resulting in misleading results which can negatively impact patient care.

### Action Required:

- *safePICO*® blood gas syringes are orderable through the Stores warehouse, item # 0009283.
- Test Directory will be updated to reflect these changes.
- Update body fluid kits with updated instructions.

### Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Dennis Orton, Clinical Biochemist, APL South Sector - Chinook Regional Hospital, 403-770-3219, [dennis.orton@aplabs.ca](mailto:dennis.orton@aplabs.ca)

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

- Dr. Michael Greeff, Regional Laboratory Medicine Site Chief, Chinook Regional Hospital
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