



Date: September 29, 2020
To: All HealthCare Professionals
From: APL Pre-Analytic Discipline Council
Re: Provincial Standardization of Order of Draw for Blood Collection

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) has standardized the order of draw for blood collection creating two new provincial blood collection quick references.
 - Order of Draw and Order of Transfer
 - Skin Puncture Order of Collection
- The two new provincial quick references will replace a number of zone specific laboratory documents, scheduled to be retired from use.
- The essential elements of the order of draw remain unchanged from previous zone documents. For some zones, there may be changes related to trace elements collection.
- The information is displayed differently *i)* the tubes are grouped together based on anticoagulant types; *ii)* specific test information in notes column has been removed as the APL Test Directory is to be used for the most up to date and complete information on test information, sample collection and handling requirements; *iii)* a section specific for trace elements collection has been added.
- Stakeholders providing input included AHS Nursing Educators and APL Medical, Quality and Operations reps.
- For Connect Care users, the same sequencing of order of draw applies. Note however, the trace elements (and label print) have been placed as last in sequence as this requires a decision on the order of draw, dependent on other tests ordered for collection at the same time.

Why this is Important:

- APL continues to standardize processes provincially and with alignment to Connect Care.
- Provincial standardization eliminates differences between zones, allowing for a more consistent patient experience and test results, and also reduces the added work required to keep several different documents reviewed and up to date.

Action Required:

- Be aware of the two new quick references; review to ensure you are informed and understand the new display format and if applicable for your zone, the trace element changes.
- As soon as possible, ensure the procedures used in your areas referencing order or draw for blood collection are updated with the new quick references. Although the use of previous zone documents is not a patient safety issue, please update to new quick references as soon as possible. Discard any previous versions in use that had been printed, and replace with new quick references.
- The two new quick references are available in the following locations:
 - APL Website www.albertaprecisionlabs.ca in the *Testing and Collections* section.
 - AHS Website <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/lab/Page3217.aspx>



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