

**Date:** March 12, 2014

**To:** North Zone - Queen Elizabeth II Hospital (QEII)  
Physicians, Respiratory Therapists, Nursing, and Laboratory Staff

**From:** AHS Laboratory Services

**Re:** Implementation of New Instrumentation in the QEII Respiratory Department

---

**PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE**

---

**Key Messages:**

- The Respiratory Department at Queen Elizabeth II Hospital is pleased to announce that it will be implementing new instrumentation for blood gases and metabolite measurement. Two new GEM Premier 4000 analyzers will replace current instrumentation.
- The change will be effective **March 18, 2014**.

**Why this is important:**

- There will be new reference intervals and critical values for some of the analytes measured on the analyzers. Arterial, venous, capillary, cord arterial, cord venous, mixed venous and pleural/pericardial fluid samples will be impacted. Reference intervals and critical values have improved alignment to central laboratory reporting and/or provincial standardization.

**Action Required:**

- Please interpret patient results according to the new reference intervals and critical values indicated on patient reports (e.g. in the Electronic Medical Record and Alberta Netcare).

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

- Chris Simpson, Clinical Coordinator Respiratory RT III, Queen Elizabeth II Hospital at: 780-832-4907 or email: [Chris.Simpson2@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Chris.Simpson2@albertahealthservices.ca)

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

Dr. James Wesenberg, AHS Provincial Medical / Scientific Director, Laboratory Services