

Date: August 12, 2013

To: Edmonton Zone - Royal Alexandra Hospital
Physicians, Nurse Managers and Educators, Laboratory Directors and Managers

From: AHS Laboratory Services – Royal Alexandra Hospital Laboratory

Re: Change to Chemistry Collection Tube Requirements

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- Effective August 28, 2013 - The main blood collection tube for Chemistry tests will be changing from Gold SST (Serum) to Light Green Lithium Heparin (Plasma). This change will support faster sample processing.
- The **potassium** reference range for adults will change to **3.3 - 4.8 mmol/L** to reflect a plasma collection.
- If Troponin testing is requested in addition to other blood work, a separate Lithium Heparin tube is required.
- Please continue to refer to the AHS Edmonton Zone Test Directory at: <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/3217.asp> for collection and handling requirements as some tests still require a serum sample.

Why this is important:

- The change to a Lithium Heparin collection tube will standardize collection requirements in acute care sites across the Edmonton Zone.

Action Required:

- Ensure staff authorized to collect blood samples are aware of the new tube type requirements.
- Ensure your case cart has been stocked with an adequate supply of Lithium Heparin tubes (Cat # 612499).

For additional questions contact:

- Dr. Anna Fuezery, Regional Clinical Chemist, RAH Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at: 780-735-5658 or email: Anna.Fuezery@albertahealthservices.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, AHS Medical/Scientific Director and ZCDH, Laboratory Services – Edmonton Zone