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**Date:** April 6, 2020  
**To:** Claresholm General Hospital Physicians, Nursing Staff, and Laboratory Staff  
**From:** Clinical Biochemistry, South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)  
**Re:** Referral of Urine Drug Screen Testing

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**Key Message:**

- Effective **March 31, 2020**, Urine Drug Screen testing will be performed at the Analytical Toxicology laboratory at the Diagnostic and Scientific Center (DSC) in Calgary and no longer at Claresholm General Hospital.
- Anticipated turnaround time for a preliminary report is less than 72 hours. Confirmation testing will be performed as per reflex rules, after which a final report will be issued.
- Results will be available in Netcare and Physician Office Systems (POS).

**Why this is Important:**

- The current urine drug screen methodology used at Claresholm General Hospital is neither sensitive nor specific, and is prone to false positives and negatives. Additionally, it does not detect clinically important drugs such as fentanyl.
- The DSC Analytical Toxicology laboratory performs confirmatory testing by mass spectrometry, which is the gold standard for urine drug testing. This methodology is highly specific and can detect emerging drugs of abuse such as fentanyl. Moving this testing to Calgary will improve the results received by the physician and improve patient care.

**Action Required:**

- Order 'Comprehensive Urine Drug Screen' or FDSU. Refer to the APL Test Directory for more information.
- Ensure completion of [Drug Screen History Form](#) and send with the sample to the lab for referral to APL Calgary.
- Contact Jessica Boyd, PhD for drug screen interpretation or consultation regarding drug screen testing at 403-770-3549.
- Poison and Drug Information Service (PADIS) Medical Toxicologists are on-call 24/7/365 to consult on management of poisoned patients at 1-800-332-1414.

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

Jessica Boyd, PhD, FCACB, Clinical Biochemist, Analytical Toxicology, South Sector, 403-770-3549,  
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