



Date: July 27, 2020
To: Red Deer Regional Hospital Center Physicians, Nursing Staff, and Laboratory Staff
From: Clinical Biochemistry, South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
Re: Referral of Urine Toxicology Testing from Red Deer Regional Hospital

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Key Message:

- Effective **July 30, 2020**, Urine Drugs of Abuse Screening will no longer be performed at the Red Deer Regional Hospital Center (RDRHC) Laboratory and will be referred to the Toxicology Laboratory at the University of Alberta Hospital (UAH) in Edmonton.
- Anticipated turnaround time is less than 72 hours from time of receipt at the UAH.
- Results will be available in Netcare and Physician Office Systems (POS).

Why this is Important:

- The current urine drug screen methodology used at RDRHC is neither sensitive nor specific for drugs of abuse, and is prone to false positives and false negatives. Additionally, it does not detect clinically important drugs such as fentanyl.
- The UAH Toxicology Laboratory performs toxicology testing by mass spectrometry, the gold standard for urine drug testing. This methodology is highly sensitive and specific and can detect emerging drugs of abuse such as fentanyl and carfentanil. Performing this test in Edmonton will enhance the results received by the physician and improve patient care.

Action Required:

- Order Urine 'General Toxicology Panel' by using Meditech test code UGTP.
 - The Urine Opioid Dependency Panel is also available, but should only be requested if actively managing a patient on opioid agonist therapy (e.g. buprenorphine, methadone), previously known as Methadone Maintenance Treatment Program. This is not usually ordered on RDRHC patients. Meditech test code UODP will trigger 'The Urine Opioid Dependency Panel'.
 - For drugs included in the new panels, please refer to:
<http://www.ahsweb.ca/lab/ToxicologyDrugTestingPanel>
- For information regarding toxicology testing performed at UAH contact Penny Colbourne, PhD, F-ABFT, Clinical Toxicologist at 780-407-4729.
- 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:

- Penny Colbourne, PhD, F-ABFT, Clinical Toxicologist, Toxicology Laboratory, UAH, 780-407-4729, Penny.Colbourne@albertaprecisionlabs.ca
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