

**Date:** December 20, 2016  
**To:** South East Zone All Physician/Physician Offices, Continuing Care Facilities/ Sexual Health Clinic/Public Health, SZE Nursing Units, South Zone Labs All Staff  
**From:** AHS Laboratory Services – South Zone – Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Laboratory  
**Re:** South Zone East Laboratory Expansion – Hematology Service Transition Timelines

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**Key Messages:**

- **Effective Tuesday January 10, 2016**, Hematology testing will transition from Medicine Hat Diagnostic Laboratory (MHDL) to Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Laboratory (MHRH)
- For an interim period specimens collected at Newell MHDL will be tested in Medicine Hat pending instrumentation implementation in Brooks. Notification will be provided when testing is being performed locally.
- These samples include Complete Blood Count (CBC), Reticulocyte (RETIC), Infectious Mono Testing (MONO), Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR), Malaria testing and Synovial Fluid testing.
- There is no change for **routine** patient collections. Please continue to send your patients to the usual location
  - Malaria testing must be collected at the Medicine Hat Hospital Collection Site or Brooks Hospital Laboratory.

**Report Delivery:**

- **Forward Advantage** auto-faxing of reports will occur for non-electronic delivery physician offices, pharmacists and midwives at **0500, 1230, and 1530**
- **Electronic delivery** of reports will transmit at **0400, 1200, 1515**.
- **Location reports** will be sent to those unit printers currently receiving paper report.
- **NetCare/Meditech EMR Reports** - are available **upon completion of the test**.

**Why this is important:**

- Hematology reporting will change to AHS format.
- Critical values will be communicated by Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Hematology Department and Brooks Health Centre Laboratory.

**Action Required:**

- Direct patients for Malaria test collection to Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Patient Collection Site (5<sup>th</sup> level RRS) and Brooks Health Centre Laboratory.
- Direct inquiries to AHS Laboratories in Medicine Hat and Brooks.

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

- Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Laboratory Client Services (403) 529-8919
- Brooks Health Centre Laboratory (403) 501-3230
- Nicole Jennissen Tech III, Brooks [Nicole.GauggelJennissen@ahs.ca](mailto:Nicole.GauggelJennissen@ahs.ca) (403) 501-3241
- Renee Tatro Tech III, MHRH [Renee.Tatro@ahs.ca](mailto:Renee.Tatro@ahs.ca) (403) 502-8648 ext 1541#
- Dr. Zohreh Taheri, Pathologist, Hematology Clinical Lead 403-529-8861

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

- Dr. Zohreh Taheri, Pathologist, Hematology Clinical Lead
- Dorothy Ward, South Zone Laboratory Director