
Date: July 15, 2019
To: North Zone and Central Zone Physicians, Nurse Managers, Laboratory Managers and Staff
From: Alberta Public Laboratories (APL), Dynalife Medical Laboratories
Re: Discontinuation of Thrombin Time at Designated Rural Sites

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Effective July 31 2019, Thrombin Time (TT) will be discontinued at low volume rural sites, including: Camrose, Cold Lake, Fort McMurray, High Level, Hinton, Peace River, Wainwright, and Westlock.
 - Thrombin Time testing has been requested and performed on only a very infrequent basis since being instituted at many rural sites in Alberta.
 - It has been decided to discontinue TT testing at sites where <10 samples per year have been resulted.
 - It is recognized that TT is a less than ideal indicator of Direct Oral Anticoagulant (DOAC) effectiveness. Therefore, it is not a required test for assessment of a DOAC patient presenting with Stroke or severe bleed. Please see current AHS Guideline for Direct Oral Anticoagulant Agents for additional details.
 - The limited clinical utility of this test, with resultant ongoing low volumes, and the significant resources required to maintain testing capability at these sites has led to this decision.

Why this is important:

- Thrombin times will no longer be available on a STAT basis at the sites noted above.
- After July 30th, where applicable, Thrombin time samples will be referred off site to perform testing.
- Results will be available on a routine basis.

Action Required:

- None

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Stuart Brown, MD FRCPC, Hematology Dept Director, Dynalife Medical Laboratories
- Artur Szkotak, MD FRCPC, Hematopathology Section Chief, North Sector, APL

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Interim Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, Alberta Public Laboratories (APL)