

Date: May 16, 2011

To: Central Zone – Stettler Hospital and Care Centre
All Physicians, Nursing and Laboratory Services

From: AHS Laboratory Services – Central Zone

Re: On-Site Chemistry Testing

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Key Messages:

- Effective **May 17, 2011 at approximately 12:00**, a new Siemens Dimension EXL200 Clinical Chemistry System will replace the aging Ortho Vitros 250 Chemistry analyzer at the Stettler Hospital and Care Centre Laboratory.
- Unlike the Vitros 250, the EXL200 is able to analyze Troponin I (TnI) and therefore, this assay will move from the i-STAT to the EXL200. The i-STAT TnI is typically done using whole blood whereas the EXL200 method requires plasma.
- The need for centrifugation of the TnI specimen prior to analysis will **increase the turnaround time** for TnI by about 15 minutes. This potential disadvantage is more than offset by the **increased sensitivity and increased precision** (reproducibility) of the EXL200 TnI assay.
- The reference range for TnI will change from **0.10 to 0.06 ug/L** due to the increased sensitivity of the assay.
- The Total Bilirubin assay is also used for neonates as there is no specific assay for “Neonatal Bilirubin”.
- There will be no changes to the on-site test menu.
- There will be a reference range change for ALT and Lipase.

Additional Information:

Siemens Field Service Engineers will perform preventative maintenance procedures on the analyzer approximately 3 times per year. These procedures will take the analyzer out of operation for approximately 8 hours. Whenever possible, advance notification will be provided.

Action Required:

As the EXL200 is new to the Laboratory staff, it will take some time to gain sufficient experience to become comfortable and to maximize efficiency in terms of workflow and turnaround time. Your patience, understanding and especially encouragement during this transition period will be very much appreciated.

For additional questions contact:

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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