

**Date:** October 6, 2011

**To:** All Zones: Physicians, Nurses and Laboratories

**From:** AHS Laboratory Services – All Zones

**Re:** Lactate – Reference Range and Critical Value Standardization

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**Key Messages:**

1. The reference range and critical value for lactate will be standardized throughout the province as of
  - October 11, 2011 for South, Calgary, Central and North Zones
  - November 30, 2011 for Edmonton Zone
2. The reference range and critical value for lactate in whole blood (arterial, venous and capillary), serum and plasma are as follows:

<b>Reference Range</b>	<b>0.5 – 2.2 mmol/L</b>
<b>Critical Value</b>	<b>Greater than 4.0 mmol/L</b>

3. This standardization initiative impacts the different Zones as listed below:
  - North Zone:  
Former Peace Country Health Region– critical value increased, currently 2.1 mmol/L  
Former Aspen Health region – no changes
  - Central Zone:  
Former East Central Health Region – critical value decreased, currently greater than 5.0 mmol/L  
Former David Thompson Health region – critical value established, currently no critical value
  - South Zone:  
Former Chinook Health Region – change in reference range, currently less than 2.0 mmol/L  
Former Palliser Health Region – change in reference range, currently 0.5 – 1.6 mmol/L  
- critical value established, currently no critical value
  - Calgary Zone: critical value decreased, currently greater than 4.1 mmol/L
  - Edmonton Zone: critical value decreased, currently greater than 5.0 mmol/L

**For additional questions contact:**

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

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