

Date: November 2, 2011

To: South Zone – West:
Chinook Regional Hospital Day Procedures, Cardio-respiratory Services, ER
Physicians, Internists, Data Centre, Chemistry Laboratory

From: AHS Laboratory Services; Cardio-Respiratory Services, CRH;
Day Procedures, CRH

Re: LB-33-11 Change to Specimen Handling for Fluid pH Specimens

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

Effective Monday November 7, 2011, Fluid specimens that require pH testing will go directly to the cardio-respiratory department for testing and reporting.

Why this is important:

There will no longer be a delay in performing pH testing as the specimen will not be handled by both laboratory and cardio-respiratory services, thus shortening turn around time and improving sample integrity.

Action Required:

- Collect Fluid specimen for pH analysis in a PICO Arterial Blood Gas syringe.
- Label specimen with patient label that includes full name, date of birth as well as unit number.
- Order **PHFLU (ph Fluid)**
- Take sample to Cardio-Respiratory for immediate testing due to specimen integrity.
 - If after hours (after 1615 hours) page the Respiratory Therapist to pick up sample for immediate analysis.
- Cardio-respiratory will test the sample and generate a report.

Note: Use the Lab Guide to Services for any additional collection instructions related to Laboratory analysis of a fluid specimen other than pH.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Mike Peta, Cardio-Respiratory Services: 403-388-6364
Barb Collin, Data Centre Supervisor (Lab) 403-388-6109

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by
Dr. Barbara Popma, Zone Clinical Department Head (Co-Lead) Laboratory Medicine, South Zone