

**Date:** March 8, 2012

**To:** South Zone – West: Internal Medicine Physicians, Emergency Physicians,  
All Emergency Departments, ICU

**From:** AHS Laboratory Services

**Re:** LBW-03-12 Routine Test Priority for Selected Tests in ICU and Emergency  
Departments

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**Key Messages:**

Currently all testing ordered from ICU and/or Emergency Departments defaults into Meditech with an order priority of “urgent”. Not all testing ordered from these locations is of an urgent nature.

The following tests will be set in Meditech to default with a routine (R) priority:

- HbA1C
- Microalbumin
- C3 and C4
- IgA
- IgG
- IgM
- Protein Electrophoresis

**Why this is important:**

The laboratory prioritizes urgent testing after STAT testing. The laboratory has to follow up with the ordering location each time to determine if the above noted testing is really needed urgently. This wastes time and resources for the laboratory, physicians and nursing areas being contacted.

Turn around time is a Key Performance Indicator for the laboratory and these tests when ordered as urgent and tested as routine flag as outliers. Ordering these tests as routine eliminates time following up on outliers unnecessarily.

**Action Required:**

- Effective March 15, 2012, the above tests will automatically default as routine (R) when ordered.

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

- Dr. B Popma, Zone Clinical Department Head (Co-Lead) Laboratory Medicine, South Zone at 403-388-6153, or
- Lisa Vandergouwe, Site Manager, Chinook Regional Hospital Laboratory at 403-388-6065

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by  
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