

Date: February 14, 2012

To: North Zone: Grande Cache Physicians, Nurses and Laboratories

From: AHS Laboratory Services

Re: On-Site Testing For Lactate at Grande Cache Community Health Complex

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

Effective February 17, 2012, on-site testing for lactate in whole blood will be available at the Grande Cache Community Health Complex.

Test Utilization:

Lactate has become an important test in the investigation for sepsis. The provincial reference range for lactate is 0.5 – 2.2 mmol/L and the critical value, important for sepsis investigation, is greater than 4.0 mmol/L.

Action Required:

For the investigation of sepsis, lactate is recommended at the time of presentation.

If lactate result is	Then
Less than or equal to 4.0 mmol/L	Subsequent testing is not indicated
Greater than 4.0 mmol/L	Repeat testing 4 – 6 hours later is recommended to ensure that with therapy, the lactate level is decreasing and then no further testing is required.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Dr. James Wesenberg, 403-343-4723 or james.wesenberg@albertahealthservices.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:
Dr. James Wesenberg, AHS Provincial Medical / Scientific Director