

Date: October 19, 2010

To: South Zone – West
All Physicians and Clinics

From: AHS Laboratory Services – South Zone (West)
Dr. B. Popma, Acting Medical Director of Laboratory, AHS South Zone West

Re: 31-10 Retired/Moved Physicians with Outstanding Lab Orders

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- Laboratory requisitions are given to patients at physician office visits. These patients may visit their local laboratory immediately or often patients will wait to visit the lab a few months later.
- From the time the physician completes the laboratory requisition to the time the patient presents to the lab, the physician may leave their practice.
- This situation creates a gap as the physician will no longer be able to act on important lab results.

Why this is important:

- If the physician is not available to act on laboratory results, this is a patient safety issue.

Action Required:

- The laboratory will no longer accept lab requisitions from physicians who have retired or left their local practice.
- Patients will be re-directed back to their clinic for an alternate referring physician to be responsible for their lab work.

For additional questions contact:

- Lisa Vandergouwe CRH Lab Site Manager 403-388-6065
- Judy Noss Area West Lab Manager 403-388-6287

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. B. Popma, Acting Medical Director of Laboratory, Alberta Health Services, South Zone West