

**Date:** July 19, 2010  
**To:** South Zone - West  
 Physicians & Physician Offices, Chinook Health Region (CHR) Laboratories, All Clinics & Collection Sites, Nursing Unit Managers, Continuing Care Facilities, Lethbridge Community College - Health Centre, University of Lethbridge, Clinical Directors  
**From:** AHS Laboratory Services – South Zone (West)  
 Dr. V. Boras, Consulting Pathologist, Microbiology, Chinook Regional Hospital Laboratory  
**Re:** 23-10 Change to Analytical Method for Rheumatoid Factor

---

**PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE**

---

**Key Message:**

The CRH Laboratory's analytical method for Rheumatoid Factor is changing **effective July 19, 2010**. The following table outlines the significant differences between the current & new methods:

	<b>Current Method</b>	<b>New Method</b>
<b>Methodology</b>	Agglutination / Manual	Nephelometric / Automated (Superior to agglutination methods.)
<b>Ordering mnemonic</b>	RFS	RF1
<b>Frequency of Analysis</b>	Daily, Monday - Friday	Daily
<b>Results Reporting</b> <b>Report Name:</b>  <b>Results reported as:</b>	RHEUMATOID FACTOR SCREEN: Negative, Inconclusive* or Positive*  *A titre is included with each Inconclusive or Positive result.	RHEUMATOID FACTOR: XX kU/L
<b>Positive Threshold concentration</b>	Titre $\geq$ 1:160	$\geq$ 15 kU/L
<b>Reference Interval</b>	Negative or Inconclusive, Titre $\leq$ 1:80	< 15 kU/L

**Why this is important:**

The new method allows for:

- Automation of the test using a superior method to the one currently in use.
- Result availability on a daily basis.

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

Eugene Boehr, Chemistry Department Supervisor at 403-388-6092 or Dr. V. Boras at 403-388-6110

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by Dr. V. Boras, Consulting Pathologist, Microbiology