

Date: November 23, 2016

To: South Zone East Physicians and Continuing Care Facilities

From: Julio C. Silva, MD, FRCPC
South Zone Clinical Department Head/Site Chief-Laboratory Medicine

RE: South Zone East Laboratory Expansion Update

The transition of lab services to Alberta Health Services from Medicine Hat Diagnostic Laboratory (MHDL) is in the final phase with all services being transitioned by March 31, 2017. This memo is intended to give you a high level overview of the transition timelines and potential impacts.

In addition to the changes as a result of the transition of services from MHDL, we are including some changes that are a result of our efforts to continually improve and standardize processes.

While this may reflect changes in historical lab processes, the changes are intended to support Alberta Health Services' Patient First Strategy and People Strategy and transfer work as seamlessly as possible.

For each item below there will be a lab bulletin released with required detail.

Service transitions

- Microbiology testing transition – starting Dec. 5, 2016:
 - BD Urine Vacutainer will be supplied to physician offices before Jan. 30, 2017. Continuing care facilities will receive these supplies prior to Dec.5, 2016. This vacutainer provides specimen stability for urine cultures.
- Hematology testing transition – starting Jan. 3, 2017.
- Urinalysis testing transition – starting Jan. 30, 2017.
- Chemistry testing transition – starting Feb. 13, 2017.
- Medicine Hat Collection Site (new location on Carry Drive) – phased in opening beginning of March 2017.
- Brooks Collection Site (new location on Cassils Road) – opening Apr. 3, 2017.
- New AHS Courier services will provide intra-Medicine Hat and intra-Brooks services to Physician and continuing care locations – Apr. 1, 2017.
- Potential redirection of some patients from Patient Collection Site, AHS Laboratory to the MHRH Laboratory Patient Collections for STAT collection or specialized collection/processing – Apr. 1, 2017.
- New MUSE patient ECG reporting via autofax/ECG Web to Physicians regardless of what location the ECG was performed. Viewing and ECG interpretation available online from anywhere.

Process Changes:

- Once MHDL closes, recurring (standing) orders will be standardized to match the rest of South Zone and other Zones and will be managed by the patients. If a physician feels their patient may be considered at risk with this change, AHS will provide additional support – implementation date TBD.
- Urinalysis Collections can be collected at the collection sites to improve patient test results
- Supply Orders (MHDL will supply until Jan. 31, 2017). Starting Feb. 1, 2017 AHS will supply physician offices):
 - New weekly order process
 - New physician office order form
 - Inventory management (In-service to be provided)
- Test directory (guide to lab services) – March 2017.
- Multiple requisition management – December, 2016.
- Mobile Lab service new provincial requisition – implementation TBD.
- AHS policy and process for acceptance of samples and requisitions – March 2017.
- Urine cultures are performed with the physician order – reflex testing for culture and sensitivity on a urinalysis request will be discontinued as of Jan. 30, 2017

Reporting Changes:

- Urinalysis reporting changes – starting Jan. 30, 2017.

Specialty and Referral Testing:

- Clinical Studies/Trials (specific to some providers)
- Sweat testing discontinuation – Dec. 31, 2016.

If you have any additional questions or concerns please contact either of these AHS Lab representatives:

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