

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: 32-10 Lab Standing Order Changes

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

Annually the Laboratory sends a Standing Order patient list to each responsible Physician for the Physician to review the orders and return to the lab for electronic updating. Changes to this process are necessary to manage the increased utilization of this service. In 2009, this process took 6 months to complete.

New:

- The annual patient Standing Order list will no longer be sent to Physicians. This report can be requested if needed by calling the Lab Community Support Office at 403-388-6210.
- Lab Standing Orders will remain in effect until the Physician requests cancellation. Cancellation requests are done by faxing a lab requisition to Lab Client Service Centre at 403-388-6068.
- Electronic Standing Orders will be discontinued immediately when a physician leaves their practice. Patients with Standing Orders affected by this change will have to see a new Physician for reassessment and reordering of the Standing Order as directed by the new Physician.
 - The Lab will send a cancellation letter to all affected patients. The letter will provide information on the patient's current standing order. This will provide for continuity of care if they need to attend a walk-in clinic and/or when they secure a new family physician.
- A patient will only be able to have one electronic standing order. The initial ordering physician will be accepted as the electronic standing order physician. This change is necessary to eliminate the risk associated with follow up of abnormal laboratory results when two physicians have standing orders for the same test.
- Only the ordering physician will be able to request additions, edits and deletions to the electronic order.
- Subsequent standing order request(s) for a patient with an existing electronic order will be handled manually. The manual requisition will be stamped with an expiry one year from presentation. The patient will be responsible to present these manual standing orders as required.

Attachment:

- Standing Order report

For additional questions contact:

- Community Support Office at 403-388-6210

Effective Date:

- Immediately

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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