

Date: April 25, 2011
To: South Zone East – All Physicians
From: AHS Laboratory Services – Medicine Hat Regional Laboratory Blood Bank
Re: Therapeutic Phlebotomy Service

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- Therapeutic Phlebotomy service at Medicine Hat Regional Hospital has been fully transferred to the Day Medical unit.

Why this is important:

- The decision to move the Therapeutic Phlebotomy Service from a Laboratory function to a nursing function was made based on providing the most appropriate care for these patients by the most appropriately trained staff.
- Patients will have access to pre-procedure and post-procedure vital signs assessments as well as better access to care in the case of adverse events. The transition will also align Medicine Hat Regional Hospital with how Therapeutic Phlebotomy services are conducted across the rest of the province.

Action Required:

- Any orders for patients can be faxed directly to Day Medicine at 403-529-8945. Please provide the volume or weight of blood to be removed (maximum 500gm or 500mL), hemoglobin and/or hematocrit level, desired ferritin level (for hemochromatosis), and frequency of bleed.
- Patients are to call 403-502-8630 for appointment bookings and any inquiries related to therapeutic phlebotomy. Appointments are available Mondays 0800-1600, Wednesdays 0900-1900 and Thursdays 0900-1900.

For additional questions contact:

- Jacquie Hess, Supervisor, Hematology/Transfusion Medicine
Phone 403-502-8648 (ext 1232) or e-mail Jacquie.Hess@albertahealthservices.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:
Dr. L. Steele, FASCP