

Date: January 17, 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 will be moving from Laboratory Services to the Day Medical unit.
- The first phase will involve the gradual transition of patients based on high-risk priority and new patients starting January 11, 2011.
- The goal is to have all Therapeutic Phlebotomy patients eventually transitioned to the Day Medical unit for the procedure.

Why this is important:

- The decision to move the Therapeutic Phlebotomy Service from a Laboratory function to a Nursing function has been 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:

- The Laboratory and Day Medicine will develop a process for transitioning patients deemed high-risk by the Laboratory.
- Any orders for new patients can be faxed directly to Day Medicine at extension 403-502-8945. 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.
- Once the transition of these patients is complete, the remaining patients will be moved to Day Medicine.

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. Michael O'Connor, Zone Clinical Dept. Head (Co-Lead) Laboratory South Zone
Clinical Department Facility Chief – Medicine Hat Regional Hospital