

**Date:** September 11, 2012

**To:** Medicine Hat Regional Hospital: Emergency Doctors, Internists, Surgeons, Obstetricians, Anaesthetists, Nursing Managers, Laboratory Staff and Pathologists

**From:** AHS Laboratory Services

**Re:** Venous Blood Gas Results Will Now Include pH, PCO<sub>2</sub>, Hemoglobin, Electrolytes, Glucose and Lactate Levels

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

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**Key Messages:**

Starting September 11, 2012, Medicine Hat Regional Hospital will be reporting additional analytes from venous blood gas collections. We are currently reporting venous gas pH, pCO<sub>2</sub> and Base Excess and as of September 11, we will be adding the following analytes: oximetry results (Hemoglobin, Carboxyhemoglobin, Methemoglobin), electrolytes (Sodium, Potassium, Chloride, CO<sub>2</sub>, Anion Gap), Glucose and Lactate. With an analysis time of approximately 3 minutes for venous gases, physicians can expect decreased turn around times for these results. As this short analysis time requires lab staff to stop anything else they might be doing, please clearly indicate the STAT nature of this specimen and reserve requesting STAT testing to critically ill (emergency triage level 1 and 2) patients.

**Action Required:**

IF ...	THEN ...
A venous blood gas is ordered	Reported analytes will include: pH, pCO <sub>2</sub> , Base Excess Hemoglobin Carboxyhemoglobin Methemoglobin Electrolytes (Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup> , HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Anion Gap) Lactate Glucose
Assessment of respiratory function is required	Request arterial specimen to be drawn by Respiratory Therapy staff.
Assessment of respiratory function is <u>not</u> required but STAT Gases, Oximetry, Electrolytes, Glucose, & Lactate are required	Request venous blood gas sample to be drawn by Laboratory staff.
Lactate <u>or</u> Glucose <u>or</u> Electrolytes only is required Note: New Lactate Test Code - LACVL	Request venous Lactate <u>or</u> Glucose <u>or</u> Electrolytes to be drawn by Laboratory staff.

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

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**This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:**

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