

# MEMO

**DATE:** February 3, 2020

**TO:** All Healthcare Practitioners ordering Prenatal Blood Testing in Lloydminster Hospital and Onion Lake, Saskatchewan

**FROM:** Dr. Sheila Harding, Provincial Clinical Lead Transfusion Medicine

**RE:** Changes to Prenatal Blood Testing for ABO/Rh and Antibody Testing

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## Key Messages:

- **Effective immediately, February 3, 2020**, laboratories completing prenatal testing for ABO/Rh Type and antibody screens are changing in Saskatchewan, with repatriation of services from Canadian Blood Services (CBS) into designated hospital sites affiliated with the Prevention of Alloimmunization in Mothers of Saskatchewan (PRAMS) program.

## Why this is important:

- **Community Outpatient prenatal testing collected at outpatient DynaLife sites** will continue to utilize the existing *CBS - Edmonton –Perinatal Testing Requisition*. Practitioners who have been using this form will continue to do so after February 3, 2020 and current ordering practices will remain the same.
  - **Results of samples tested by CBS Edmonton for Lloydminster patients will continue to be available** electronically in Alberta NetCare, and manually entered into the Saskatchewan eHealth Viewer by Lloydminster Hospital laboratory staff.
- **Routine prenatal samples collected at the Lloydminster Hospital and through the community of Onion Lake** will require use of the new *SHA Request for Prenatal Testing* requisition (more information below), and sample send-out to the designated testing laboratory will continue to be supported by the Lloydminster Hospital.
  - **Lloydminster physicians are encouraged not to refer outpatients to the Lloydminster Hospital Lab** for routine sample collection due to limited staff capacity.
  - **Results of samples collected and tested within Saskatchewan will now be electronically available** in the eHealth Viewer and associated Saskatchewan physician electronic medical records. Saskatchewan results are not available in the Alberta NetCare system.
  - **Chemistry or transmissible disease testing in Saskatchewan continues to require completion of an additional specific requisition.** Test requests for this process are unchanged.

## **What's New? Facts you need to know when you order your prenatal testing in Saskatchewan:**

- These prenatal samples require the new ***SHA Request for Prenatal Testing*** requisition (attached). The requisition must be completed by the Most Responsible Healthcare Practitioner. **This is not a task that can be delegated to the phlebotomy/laboratory staff.**
  - Accuro users can source the requisition in the Accuro forms editor through a title search *SHA Request for Prenatal Testing (SK)*.
  - Med Access users may access the Med Access template by downloading the zip file from the forms section on the following link: <http://saskblood.ca/prams-program/>.
  - Paper based users may also access the requisition from the forms section on the following link: <http://saskblood.ca/prams-program/>.
    - Please review stock and discard all CBS Prenatal requisitions effective immediately.
- Antibody titer reporting has changed. SHA laboratories use automated testing for antibody titers, which is considerably more sensitive than manual testing methods used by CBS. This impacts titer interpretation and the identification of critical thresholds for patients. **The new critical threshold for referral to specialist care due to risk to the fetus is 64, rather than 16.**
- Test results will be available in the eHealth Viewer and associated Saskatchewan physician electronic medical records for electronic users, and paper based offices will continue to receive faxed results.
- Ordering for prenatal transmissible disease testing (virology) will remain unchanged and will continue to be performed at the Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory in Regina.

**Attachments Included:** *Saskatchewan Health Authority Request for Prenatal Testing* (Requisition) effective February 3, 2020 and Job Aid.

### **Inquiries and feedback:**

For more information about the PRAMS (Prevention of Alloimmunization in Mothers of Saskatchewan) Program please visit <http://saskblood.ca/prams-program/> or contact Kalen Paulson, Project Manager for PRAMS at: [kalen.paulson@saskhealthauthority.ca](mailto:kalen.paulson@saskhealthauthority.ca)