

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum

To: Central Zone Physicians and Health Service Directors

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Date: August 8 ,2022

Message: Changes to Blood Gas requisition, ordering and specimen handling in the Central Zone (CZ)

Effective August 23 , 2022, with the implementation of new blood gas analyzers, CZ will be introducing a new blood gas requisition (CD3211 see attached) . Blood specimen collection requirements are listed on the requisition. To meet laboratory standards the following changes will be implemented.

1. There are four Blood Gas (BG) panels listed, Arterial (ABG), Venous (VBG) standard, VBG-extended and Mixed Venous (drawn from the pulmonary artery) .
2. Carboxyhemoglobin (COHb) can be requested separately as required.
3. Methemoglobin (MetHb) can be requested separately as required.
4. If standard testing of electrolytes, glucose, lactate, iCa or hemoglobin are required, please use the standard test requisition form (CD0002A) and follow the venous blood collection requirements. **Do not request BG testing for this purpose.** It is recommended to not repeat testing within four hours.
5. The use of VBG in CZ has been significantly higher than in most other Canadian provinces. VBG in general (and in particular the extended panel) should be limited to patients with Diabetic Ketoacidosis or other critical conditions where arterial samples cannot be drawn. It is recommended to not repeat testing within eight hours of a previous request.

If you have questions , please contact Dr. Amy Lou at 902-473-1528