

Laboratory Services Memorandum

Date: December 23, 2010

To: All AHS Staff

From: Tammy Hofer, Vice President, Laboratory Services

cc: Leanne Dekker, Vice President, Infection Prevention & Control
Todd Gilchrist, Vice President, Workplace Health, Safety & Employee Wellness

RE: **Change to the use of single patient Vacutainer Holders/Cups**

During the past several months a review has identified that practice standards regarding the single use of Vacutainer holders/cups are varied across Alberta Health Services. To support patient safety, effective immediately, the following practice standard improvement should be adopted by Alberta Health Services employees, members of the medical staff, students, and other persons acting on behalf of or in conjunction with Alberta Health Services that utilize Vacutainer cups/holders.

- **All Vacutainer holder/cups are to be single patient use only.**
- **Vacutainer holder/cups are not to be cleaned and used again on other /multiple patients.**

In addition, to support staff safety, the single straight needles will be replaced by straight needles with Vacutainer cups pre attached.

The Single Patient Use Straight Needle/Holder Combo, illustrated below will be introduced into inventory across AHS in early January 2011. At that time, Reusable Vacutainer cups/holders will be removed from supply inventories.



Single Patient Use Vacutainer Cup/Holder



Single Patient Use Straight Needle/Holder Combo

If you have questions, please direct them to Max Jajszczok, Lead, Physician & Clinician Stakeholder Engagement (CPSM).

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Thank you

(Original Signed)

Tammy Hofer