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To: Bismarck Region Clinicians
Date: August 19, 2026
Subject: Transition to Beckman Coulter Chemistry Analyzers – Bismarck Medical Center

Beginning in April 2026, Sanford Health Laboratory Services initiated a phased transition from Abbott chemistry instrumentation to Beckman Coulter chemistry analyzers across the Sanford Health System. This conversion is being implemented on a site-by-site basis, with enterprise-wide implementation anticipated by 2030. The next scheduled implementation will occur at **Bismarck Medical Center**, with a planned go-live date of **August 31, 2026**.

The following changes are associated with this transition:

Minor adjustments to **reference intervals** are expected for several analytes. As a result, abnormal flagging may differ from previous reports. Clinicians are encouraged to view results carefully during this transition period. Small numerical differences between Abbott and Beckman methods may also occur; therefore, consideration should be given to establishing new baseline values for patients undergoing serial monitoring.

The method used to measure serum creatinine is changing from an enzymatic to a Jaffe method. The Jaffe method is more susceptible to analytical interferences, but results are expected to be comparable to the current method. The eGFR equation will remain unchanged.

Patients undergoing **longitudinal monitoring with tumor markers** will require re-baselining after the transition. To facilitate comparison during the transition, results from both the Abbott and Beckman methods will be reported for a defined period to assist with interpretation (see below).

- PSA, TOTAL (1 WEEK)
- CARCINOEMBRYONIC ANTIGEN (1 MONTH)
- CA 15-3 (1 MONTH)
- CA 125 (3 MONTHS)
- ALPHA-FETOPROTEIN, TUMOR MARKER (3 MONTHS)

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A few assays are **not yet available on the Beckman** chemistry platform. The specimens will be transported to Sanford Broadway Clinic Laboratory in Fargo for analysis on the Abbott platform.

- TESTOSTERONE, TOTAL, IMMUNOASSAY
- CA 19-9
- HEPATITIS A, B AND C SEROLOGIES (EXCEPT HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN)

The **high sensitivity troponin I reference intervals, clinical decision thresholds** (rule out/rule in), and **delta values** will be updated to align with the new assay methodology. Additional guidance, including the hyperlink to the Beckman algorithm, is available.

MALE 5-20 NG/L
FEMALE 5-12 NG/L

We are streamlining our body fluid testing menu to better align with current clinical guidelines and best practices. Low-volume and low-clinical-utility analytes will be referred to a reference laboratory. As a result, you may notice a slight increase in turnaround time for these select tests.

Under the current process, residual specimens are retained for **5 days** after testing is completed to allow for any additional testing or troubleshooting, if needed. Due to temporary storage limitations, the specimen retention period will be reduced to **3 days** from **August 31 through November 30.**

Please refer to the hyperlink for Beckman Chemistry Detailed Changes spreadsheet for detailed assay-specific information.

If you have any questions about these changes, please visit the website at SanfordLaboratories.org or contact us at 1-877-392-1234.

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