



DATE: July 12, 2019

TO: SHA Clinical Care Providers, Physicians and Practitioners

FROM: Dr. Andrew Lyon, Division Head, Biochemistry, Pathology and Laboratory Services, Saskatoon – SHA.
Goldie Tremblay, Manager, Laboratory Information Systems, Pathology and Laboratory Services, Saskatoon – SHA

RE: Correction of the units of reporting for Total Bilirubin from the Humboldt District Hospital.

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- On July 9th 2019 staff discovered that serum/plasma total bilirubin test results were listed on paper laboratory reports and electronic reports with the incorrect **unit of measure for testing performed in Humboldt District Hospital Laboratory**. The results were reported using the unit of measure mmol/L (millimoles per Litre) instead of the correct unit: umol/L (micromoles per Litre).
 - The reported Total Bilirubin numeric value of the result was correct. Reference ranges are independently displayed as numeric values, therefore high or low total bilirubin results for patients were flagged appropriately when the reference intervals were exceeded.
 - The trending display of Total Bilirubin test results in Sunrise Clinical Manager (SCM) and by eHealth Viewer indicated the incorrect **units of measure**, but reference interval limits are based on the numeric values to enable appropriate interpretations.
 - This programming error was introduced in 2017 and will be corrected immediately. For the next year, a comment will be appended to future HDH laboratory results to remind care providers. Please note that trending displays in both SCM and the eViewer will continue to be a single display with a notation indicating multiple units of measure.
 - At this time we do not propose to retrieve or correct the 16,000 reports distributed on paper or electronically due to the low risk of clinical misinterpretation.

At this time, we anticipate this error has a low risk of impacting patient care. However, should you be aware of any adverse patient impact associated with this change in units of measure, contact one of the following: Dr. Andrew Lyon (306-655-5164) andrew.lyon@saskhealthauthority.ca) or Goldie Tremblay (306-655-8516) goldie.tremblay@saskhealthauthority.ca) or Call the Saskatoon Safety Alert System at 306-655-1600 and references SAS incident number 2138821.

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