



## *Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum*

---

To: Health Care Providers and Health Service Managers

From: Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine Central Zone

Date: November 3, 2021

Subject: **Supply issues – i-Stat Chem8+ cartridges**

---

Nova Scotia Health has been informed of supply issues with Chem8+ cartridges used on the Abbott i-Stat. The vendor is currently unable to fill orders due to supply issues in Canada. The remaining stock of the Chem8+ cartridges at the Point of Care (POC) locations is low and at risk of depleting before the issue is resolved by the vendor.

As an alternative product, Abbott EC8+ and Creatinine cartridges will be available for order. Together, these panels perform a similar list of tests as the Chem8+, except for the absence of ionized calcium.

The Creatinine cartridge tests only creatinine. EC8+ cartridges perform the following tests:

- Glucose
- Urea
- Electrolytes (Na, K, Cl)
- Anion gap

In general, total calcium (tCa) is sufficient for clinical monitoring of calcium homeostasis in most patients. The clinical usefulness of ionized calcium (iCa) is restricted to patients with acid–base disorders, receiving blood transfusions containing citrate anticoagulant, late–stage renal disease and hospitalized or critical ill patients. **If tCa or iCa is required, a separate sample will be required and sent to the laboratory for testing. Refer to the Laboratory Test Catalogue for details on specimen requirements.**

The procedure for running these cartridges is the same as Chem8+. No additional training is required.

Please contact Dr. Amy Lou 902-473-1528 if you have any questions.