

September 22, 2025

To: All Greater Peoria Service Area Carle Health Facilities
Carle Health Methodist Outreach Clients

From: Carle Health: Peoria Service Area Laboratories

INFORM: Volatile Testing Discontinuation & Alternative Testing Guidance (Effective 10/1/2025)

ACTION:

Effective **October 1, 2025, Volatile Testing (VOLT)** will be retired from the Carle Health West Region laboratory test menu. Providers should begin transitioning to alternative testing strategies immediately to ensure uninterrupted patient care.

INFORMATION:

Guidance on Laboratory Tests for Alcohol Detection

Ethanol testing remains available; however, other alcohols can cause falsely elevated ethanol levels. If other alcohols are suspected, consider checking osmolality gap, anion gap, and urine ketones.

- A raised osmolality gap (>15 mOsm/kg) suggests the presence of an alcohol or diuretic.
- An elevated anion gap is associated with methanol consumption but not with other alcohols.
- Ketonuria may occur in patients who have consumed isopropyl alcohol, as it is metabolized to acetone.

Using these tests will not only support the necessary treatment for the patient but also provide faster results.

CLOSING:

The retirement of volatile testing reflects a shift toward more efficient and clinically relevant testing strategies. For questions or concerns, please contact:

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