

<b>DATE:</b>	2021 December 13
<b>TO:</b>	Edmonton and North Zone
<b>FROM:</b>	Alberta Precision Laboratories
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Changes to Ordering Body Fluid Crystals in Epic</b>

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**Key Message**

- Bile fluid will be removed as an acceptable Specimen Type when ordering “Body Fluid Crystals” testing in Connect Care.
- Specimen Type will be limited to “Synovial Fluid” and “Other”.

**Background**

- Bile Fluid was previously being assessed for the presence of Cholesterol crystals. However due to a lack of province-wide utilization and inability to maintain competence, it is being discontinued.
- Conversely, the ability to assess nodules from outside the joint for Monosodium Urate deposition had been omitted from the Epic Connect Care build as an oversight. This is needed to distinguish gout-associated tophus formation from other swellings such as rheumatoid nodules, osteoarthritic Heberden’s/Bouchard’s nodules, and lipomas.

**How this will impact you**

- Bile fluid assessment for Cholesterol crystals **will not** be orderable in Connect Care.
- Assessment of non-synovial fluid aspirates for monosodium urate crystal deposition **will** be orderable in Connect Care.

**Action Required**

- When assessing for joint fluid crystals, continue to order “Body Fluid Crystals” and specify Specimen Type as “Synovial Fluid” in Connect Care. Specify which joint the fluid was collected from under Specimen Source.
- When assessing aspirates from outside of a joint for monosodium urate crystals, order “Body Fluid Crystals”, and specify “Other” under Specimen Type in Connect Care. Specify the anatomic site under Specimen Source. See Appendix (below) for example screenshot.
- Evaluation for any other types of crystals or from any other sources must be discussed with a pathologist **prior** to collection to assess for feasibility.

**Effective      December 20, 2021**

**Questions/Concerns**

- Dr. A. Szkotak, Hematopathology Chief, North Sector, [Artur.Szkotak@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:Artur.Szkotak@albertaprecisionlabs.ca), 780-407-7104

**Approved by**

- Dr. Michael Mengel, North Sector Medical Director, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
- Dr. Stuart Brown, Department of Hematology Director, Dynalife Medical Laboratories



The screenshot displays the Epic EMR interface for a patient named Twelve E. Beakercvma V. The main window shows a lab order for 'Crystals, Body Fluid'. The order details include:

- Reference links: DynaLIFE Guide to Lab Services, API Guide to Lab Services
- Frequency: Once (STAT, PRR, Timed)
- Starting: 1/12/2021 (Today, Tomorrow, At: 1250)
- First Occurrence: Today 1250
- Show Scheduled Times: 01/12/21 1250
- Specimen Type: Other Body Fluid (Synovial Fluid)
- Specimen Source: Ankle, Left; Ankle, Right; Hip, Right; Hip, Left; Knee, Left; Knee, Right; Elbow, Right
- Comments: Abdomen
- Add-on: Adrenal Gland, Left (81); Adrenal Gland, Right (80); Adrenal Gland, Unspecified (326)
- CC Results: Ankle, Left (264); Ankle, Right (265); Ankle, Unspecified (332); Anus (83); Aortic Valve (333); Appendix (71); Arm Stump, Left (334); Arm Stump, Right (335); Arm, Left (43); Anus, Stump (44)

The interface also shows a list of lab tests on the left, including Alanine Aminotransferase (ALT), Alkaline Phosphatase (ALP), Anti-Xa Heparin Level, Aspartate Aminotransferase (AST), CBC, Cell Count, CSF, CNS/Neuro Cancer Mutation Analysis, Cytogenetic Analysis, and Cytochrome P450. The right sidebar contains 'Manage Orders' and 'New Orders' sections.