

<b>DATE:</b>	17 July 2024
<b>TO:</b>	All Zones: APL and AHS Health Care Providers ordering beta hCG i-STAT testing
<b>FROM:</b>	Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Beta hCG Abbott i-STAT Availability: Change in Order Required</b>

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### Key Message

- Effective July 19, 2024, serum beta hCG testing performed on the Abbott i-STAT device will not be available due to unavailable supply by the manufacturer.
  - Alberta Precision Laboratories is working with the manufacturer to determine when supply will be available in Canada and onsite testing can resume.
  - See Appendix 1 for impacted sites with i-STAT as primary device for serum beta hCG

### How this will impact you

- If your site currently orders serum beta hCG (LAB5192) for i-STAT testing (query ectopic pregnancy in the Emergency Department), testing will be sent to a referral site on an interim basis.
  - Please order **beta hCG, Quantitative (LAB143)**
    - Stat designation required if testing for ectopic pregnancy investigation, otherwise sample will be sent to designated hub laboratory.
  - *Beta hCG, Quantitative iSTAT (LAB5192)* will not be available to order effective July 19, 2024
- Be aware of the change in methodology order priority (routine vs. stat), and that there will be a delay in result reporting.
  - Urine hCG testing remains available for ordering if clinically indicated

### Action Required

- Be aware of the serum beta hCG i-STAT test changes and ensure that the appropriate test and priority are ordered.
- If the local laboratory normally tests serum beta hCG with an i-STAT device, then they will support referred out testing to the closest appropriate site.

### Questions/Concerns

- Karin Moses, Discipline Lead – Clinical Biochemistry, [karin.moses@aplabs.ca](mailto:karin.moses@aplabs.ca)
- Dr. Allison Venner, Clinical Biochemistry Section Chief, South Sector, [allison.venner@aplabs.ca](mailto:allison.venner@aplabs.ca)
- Dr. Kareena Schnabl, Clinical Biochemistry Section Chief, North Sector, [kareena.schnabl@aplabs.ca](mailto:kareena.schnabl@aplabs.ca)

### Approved by

- Dr. Michael Mengel, Medical Director, North Sector, APL
- Dr. Travis Ogilvie, interim coverage for Dr. Kate O'Connor, Medical Director, South Sector, APL  
Dr. Kaila Crawford, Associate Medical Director, North Sector, APL and interim coverage for Dr. Krishna Narra, Associate Medical Director, South Sector, APL



**Appendix 1. Sites with Abbott i-STAT as onsite primary device for serum beta hCG testing**

Zone	Facility
North	Grimshaw/Berwyn and District Community Health Centre McLennan - Sacred Heart Community Health Centre Wabasca/Desmarais Health Care Centre
Edmonton	University of Alberta Hospital/Stollery Children's Hospital – for Viral Hemorrhagic Fever testing <b>only</b> . No rural sites impacted
Central	Drayton Valley Hospital and Care Centre Drumheller Health Centre Hanna Health Centre Innisfail Health Centre Lacombe Hospital and Care Centre Olds Hospital and Care Centre Provost Health Centre Rimbey Hospital and Care Centre Stettler Hospital and Care Centre Sundre – Myron Thompson Health Centre Three Hills Health Centre Two Hills Health Centre Vegreville – St. Joseph's General Hospital Vermillion Health Centre Viking Health Centre Wetaskiwin Hospital and Care Centre
Calgary	South Health Campus and Alberta Children's Hospital – for Viral Hemorrhagic Fever testing <b>only</b> . No rural sites impacted
South	No impacted sites