

DATE:	3 September 2024
TO:	All Health Care Providers
FROM:	Section of Microbiology, Alberta Precision Laboratories
RE:	Discontinuation of Nocardia Culture Orderable

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- “Nocardia Culture” will no longer be available as a separate orderable in Connect Care.
- If *Nocardia* spp. is clinically suspected, please include this in the “Suspected Organism” field when ordering and submitting a specimen for culture.
- If *Nocardia* spp. has been isolated, it will be reported under the accession corresponding to the specimen from which it was isolated.

Background

- Culture for *Nocardia* spp. continues to be performed at both Edmonton Base Lab and Calgary DSC microbiology laboratories. It remains integrated within routine culture protocols utilizing routine and selective media, and extended incubation.
- The Nocardia Culture orderable is not being utilized by laboratories for reporting of culture results, which has resulted in confusion when reviewing results.

Effective September 9, 2024

Questions/Concerns

- Dr. Peet van der Walt, Medical Microbiologist, Edmonton Base Lab, APL (petrus.vanderwalt@aplabs.ca)
- Dr. Byron Berenger, Provincial Microbiology Section Chief, APL (byron.berenger@aplabs.ca)

Approved by

- Dr. Carolyn O’Hara, Interim Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, APL

Effective September 1, 2023, APL has become the sole provider of all public lab services in Alberta. As a result, community lab services formally provided by DynaLIFE Medical Labs will become the responsibility of Alberta Precision Labs (APL). This change impacts all zones.