

DATE:	17 September 2024
TO:	All Zones: All Healthcare Professionals and Providers
FROM:	Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Test Menu Changes at Multiple Rural Laboratories

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Effective September 17, 2024, all rural laboratories will remove serum/plasma aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and total protein from their onsite test menu.
 - These tests will still be available to order and will be sent to an alternate APL laboratory (e.g. Edmonton BaseLab or Calgary Diagnostic and Scientific Centre).
- CRP will be added to the onsite test menu of 25 rural laboratories.
 - Implementation timeline varies depending on staffing and instrumentation (see Appendix A).

Background

- There are over 80 APL rural acute care and health centre testing laboratories in Alberta, and each perform some onsite lab testing but have considerable variation between their test menus.
 - Standardization of onsite test menus allows the laboratory to streamline processes and improve resource efficiency.
 - It is important to maintain some test menu customization based on local needs (e.g. services offered, proximity to referral labs, access to transportation).
- The initial phase for implementation of a standardized provincial rural test menu involves:
 - CRP addition to the onsite test menu to 25 rural laboratories.
 - Serum/plasma AST and total protein removal from the onsite test menu at all rural laboratories.
- Further test menu updates will follow as resources allow.

How this will impact you

- Be aware that turnaround time will change as of September 17, 2024.
 - For sites removing serum/plasma AST and/or total protein, it will increase.
 - For sites adding CRP, it will decrease.
- No changes to the test order are required.
 - Routing is determined within Connect Care. Any testing no longer available onsite will be sent to a referral laboratory.

Questions/Concerns

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**ALBERTA PRECISION
LABORATORIES**

Leaders in Laboratory Medicine

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Approved by

- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer (Interim), 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.



Appendix A. Test Menu Changes by Site

Site	Remove AST*	Remove Total Protein*	Add CRP (projected timeline)
South Zone			
Bow Island Health Centre		X	X (TBD)
Cardston Health Centre			X Sept-Dec 2024
Crowsnest Pass Health Centre			X (TBD)
Oyen - Big Country Hospital		X	X Sept-Dec 2024
Pincher Creek Health Centre			X (TBD)
Raymond Health Centre			X Sept-Dec 2024
Taber Health Centre			X Jan-Mar 2025
Calgary Zone			
Airdrie Community Health Centre			X Sept-Dec 2024
Banff - Mineral Springs Hospital		X	
Canmore General Hospital		X	
Claresholm General Hospital			X Jan-Mar 2025
Didsbury District Health Services Building	X	X	X Jan-Mar 2025
High River General Hospital	X	X	
Oilfields General Hospital			X Jan-Mar 2025
Okotoks Health and Wellness Centre			X Live
Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre			X Sept-Dec 2024
Strathmore District Health Services	X	X	
Vulcan Community Health Centre			X Jan-Mar 2025
Central Zone			
Camrose - St. Mary's Hospital	X	X	
Drayton Valley Hospital and Care Centre		X	
Drumheller Health Centre		X	
Hanna Health Centre		X	
Innisfail Health Centre		X	
Lacombe Hospital and Care Centre		X	
Lamont Health Care Centre			X Jan-Mar 2025
Olds Hospital and Care Centre		X	
Ponoka Hospital and Care Centre		X	
Rimbey Hospital and Care Centre		X	
Rocky Mountain House Health Centre		X	
St. Joseph's General Hospital (Vegreville)		X	
Stettler Hospital and Care Centre		X	
Sundre Hospital and Care Centre		X	
Three Hills Health Centre		X	
Two Hills Health Centre			X Jan-Mar 2025
Vermilion Health Centre		X	
Wainwright Health Centre	X	X	
Wetaskiwin Hospital and Care Centre		X	



Site	Remove AST*	Remove Total Protein*	Add CRP (projected timeline)
Edmonton Zone			
Devon General Hospital			X Sept-Dec 2024
East Edmonton Health Centre			X Sept-Dec 2024
Fort Saskatchewan Community Hospital		X	
Redwater Health Centre			X Sept-Dec 2024
North Zone			
Athabasca Healthcare Centre	X	X	
Barrhead Healthcare Centre	X	X	
Beaverlodge Municipal Hospital	X		
Bonnyville Healthcare Centre	X	X	
Central Peace Health Complex (Spirit River)	X		
Cold Lake Healthcare Centre		X	
Edson Healthcare Centre	X	X	
Fairview Health Complex	X		X Sept-Dec 2024
Fox Creek Healthcare Centre			X Sept-Dec 2024
Grande Cache Community Health Complex	X		X Sept-Dec 2024
Grimshaw / Berwyn and District Community Health Centre	X		
High Prairie Health Complex	X		
Hinton Healthcare Centre	X	X	
Manning Community Health Centre	X		
Mayerthorpe Healthcare Centre		X	X Sept-Dec 2024
Peace River Community Health Centre	X	X	
Seton Healthcare Centre			X Sept-Dec 2024
Slave Lake Healthcare Centre	X	X	
St. Therese - St. Paul Healthcare Centre		X	
Valleyview Health Centre	X		
Wabasca / Desmarais Healthcare Centre			X Sept-Dec 2024
Westlock Healthcare Centre	X	X	
Whitecourt Healthcare Centre	X		
William J. Cadzow - Lac La Biche Healthcare Centre	X	X	

*For serum/plasma and effective Sept. 17, 2024