

DATE:	25 September 2024
TO:	Physicians, Nursing Staff and Healthcare Practitioners – All Zones
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) - Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Provincial Program
RE:	Changes to HLA Typing Testing for Carbamazepine Hypersensitivity

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- HLA typing testing for carbamazepine hypersensitivity will now include testing for both A*31:01 and B*15:02

Background

- Historically, the specific HLA typing testing being performed for carbamazepine hypersensitivity has been directed by patient ancestry as determined by clinicians. However, there is no suitably accurate method for clinicians to determine patient ancestry without lab testing.
- Additionally, HLA A*31:01 and B*15:02 are not specific to a particular ancestry (i.e.. Caucasians or Asians, respectively).
- At the request of clinicians, these specifiers used to direct testing to be performed will be removed.

How this will impact you

- HLA typing testing for carbamazepine hypersensitivity will now include testing for both A*31:01 and B*15:02.

Action Required

- Please utilize the appropriate test code (HLA Typing – Carbamazepine A*31:01 and B*15:02) when ordering HLA typing testing for patients where carbamazepine hypersensitivity is a concern.
- If testing is ordered using a requisition, please use the most current version using the provided link and discard older versions (<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/fm-ch-0319.pdf>)

Effective

- 25 September 2024

Questions/Concerns

- Terry Chu, Clinical Supervisor, Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program, Transplant Laboratory North, Terry.Chu@aplabs.ca
- April Hillman, Clinical Supervisor, Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program. Transplant Laboratory South, April.Hillman@aplabs.ca



**ALBERTA PRECISION
LABORATORIES**

Leaders in Laboratory Medicine

Approved by

- Richelle Miller, Director, Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program, Provincial, Richelle.Miller@aplabs.ca
- Dr. Esme Dijke, Histocompatibility Lead North Sector, Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program, Esme.Dijke@aplabs.ca

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.