

DATE:	25 November 2024
TO:	Vegreville, Vermilion and Two Hills Physicians and Nursing Staff
FROM:	Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	CSF and Fluid Cell Count Processing and Testing Changes

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Key Message

- **Effective November 27, 2024**, CSF and fluid samples collected for cell count at the St. Joseph's Hospital, Vermilion and Two Hills Health Centre's will no longer be tested on-site. Laboratory staff will send CSF samples collected from these sites to UAH Hematology Department in Edmonton for processing and testing. Fluid samples collected at these sites will be sent to Edmonton Baselab for processing and testing.

Background

- Annual CSF cell count testing volumes at these three Laboratories are very low (0-1 per year). With low testing volumes, staff competency levels are challenging to maintain. The need for dedicated equipment used only for processing CSF/Fluid cell count samples would be eliminated.

How this will impact you

- Samples will continue to be collected at the above listed facilities. Laboratory staff will be responsible for arranging courier pick-up and delivery of the sample to Edmonton for processing and testing. The LIS system will be updated to reflect the routing changes for CFS and Fluid samples.

Action Required

- Contact your local Laboratory prior to performing a CSF or Fluid collection for cell count. Laboratory staff will arrange a courier or stat cab for immediate transportation to Edmonton.

Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

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