

<b>DATE:</b>	9 December 2024
<b>TO:</b>	Central Zone Physicians, Laboratory Directors, Managers, Supervisors
<b>FROM:</b>	Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Discontinuation of Lipid Panel and Lithium Level Testing at St. Mary's Hospital in Camrose, Wainwright Health Centre and Bonnyville Healthcare Centre</b>

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### Key Message

- Effective December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, on-site testing of **Lipid Panel** at St. Mary's Hospital in Camrose and Wainwright Health Centre and Bonnyville Healthcare Centre as well as **Lithium Level** at St. Mary's Hospital in Camrose and Wainwright Health Centre will be discontinued, and samples will be referred out to appropriate referral labs.

### Background

- APL has been working towards Rural Test Menu standardization to increase efficiency of rural labs. This means some tests may be removed while others may be added depending on testing numbers and distance to performing sites. Decisions about test addition/deletion are made following consultations with the local groups of physicians.

### How this will impact you

- Rural sites will no longer be reporting Lipids and Lithium on-site.
- Referral of testing will follow each sites regular referral paths, either University of Alberta Hospital or Edmonton Base Lab.
- Turnaround time for results availability is expected to be between 12-48h depending on the time of collection of the sample during the day/week
- There are no changes to the reference ranges or critical values of Lipid Panel or Lithium Level

### Action Required

- Be aware of the changes

**Effective**      **December 17, 2024**

### Questions/Concerns

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### Approved by

- Dr. Robby Wang, Regional Laboratory Medicine Site Chief, RDRHC, APL
- Dr. Kareena Schnabl, Clinical Biochemistry Section Chief, APL
- Dr. Michael Mengel, Medical Director, North Sector, APL