

DATE:	3 March 2025
TO:	North Zone: Grande Prairie Regional Health Center (GPRHC) All Healthcare Providers
FROM:	Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Referral of Immunology Tests (Immunoglobulins, Immunoglobulin G, Immunoglobulin A, Immunoglobulin M, Rheumatoid Factor and Cryoglobulin) to Edmonton Base Laboratory

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Key Message

- Effective 04March2025, immunology tests (*Immunoglobulins (IGG, IGA, IGM), Immunoglobulin G (IGG), Immunoglobulin A (IGA), Immunoglobulin M (IGM), Rheumatoid Factor and Cryoglobulin*) currently performed at Grande Prairie Regional Health Center Laboratory will be referred to Edmonton Base Laboratory (EBL).

Why this is important

- This change supports improved workflow in the GPRHC lab.

Background

- A provincial Regional Hospital Test Menu Standardization working group was formed to address test menu gaps and find efficiencies.
- Since immunology testing is a low volume test and is not typically required urgently, it will be referred out to EBL.

How this will impact you

- There will be no changes to test orders in Connect Care.
- There are differences in assays used for testing between EBL and GPRHC laboratory, please note the specific changes for the following tests:

Rheumatoid Factor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serum collected in a serum separator tube (SST, Gold top) will be the only acceptable specimen type. Previously, the acceptable specimen types were serum collected in SST and lithium heparinized plasma were acceptable. The minimum collection volume has increased from 0.5 mL to 1.0 mL. Anticipated turnaround time is 24-72 hours (previously within 24 hours).
Immunoglobulins, IGG, IGA, IGM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minimum collection volume has increased from 0.5 mL to 1.0 mL. Anticipated turnaround time is 24-72 hours (previously within 24 hours). Age-stratified reference intervals will change (see Appendix I).
Cryoglobulins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The specimen type has been changed from three red tubes to one gold SST tube. The minimum collection volume is still 3.0 mL of serum.



Action Required

- Be aware of minimum collection volumes, reference interval, and turnaround time changes to *immunoglobulins, IGG, IGA, IGM, Rheumatoid Factor and Cryoglobulin*.

Effective 04 March 2025

Questions/Concerns

- Dr. Janet Zhou, Clinical Biochemist, 825-963-5137, janet.zhou@albertaprecisionlabs.ca
- EBL Clinical Chemist Team, 825-394-1816, apl.clinicalchemists@albertaprecisionlabs.ca

Approved by

- Dr. Kareena Schnabl, Section Chief, Clinical Biochemistry, North Sector APL
- Dr. Mathew Estey, Medical Lead, Clinical Biochemistry, Edmonton Base Lab
- Dr. Karim Khetani, Site Chief, Grande Prairie Regional Hospital
- Dr. Michael Mengel, Medical Director, North Sector, APL



Appendix I:

Immunoglobulin G Reference Intervals:

GPRHC		Edmonton Base Lab	
Age	Reference Interval (g/L)	Age	Reference Interval (g/L)
1 day up to 3 months	2.60-14.00	Up to 2 years	2.80-14.80
3 months up to 1 year	2.80-16.00		
1 year up to 3 years	4.00-16.00		
3 years up to 6 years	5.40-16.00	2 years up to 5 years	3.20-15.60
6 years up to 8 years	5.80-16.00	5 years up to 19 years	5.30-15.90
8 years up to 11 years	6.20-17.00		
11 years up to 16 years	6.40-17.00		
16 years up to unspecified	6.80-18.00	19 years up to unspecified	6.94-16.18

Immunoglobulin A Reference Intervals:

GPRHC		Edmonton Base Lab	
Age	Reference Interval (g/L)	Age	Reference Interval (g/L)
1 day up to 3 months	<1.21	Up to 1 year	0.10-1.29
3 months up to 6 months	0.05-1.20		
6 months up to 1 year	0.10-1.20		
1 year up to 2 years	0.20-1.60	1 year up to 2 years	0.20-1.75
2 years up to 3 years	0.30-2.00	2 years up to 3 years	0.22-2.20
3 years up to 6 years	0.35-2.40	3 years up to 7 years	0.43-2.60
6 years up to 8 years	0.40-2.80	7 years up to 10 years	0.51-2.97
8 years up to 11 years	0.45-3.20	10 years up to 13 years	0.44-3.15
11 years up to 16 years	0.50-3.80	13 years up to 19 years	0.44-3.91
16 years up to unspecified	0.60-4.20	19 years to unspecified	0.70-4.00

Immunoglobulin M Reference Intervals:

GPRHC		Edmonton Base Lab	
Age	Reference Interval (g/L)	Age	Reference Interval (g/L)
Up to 5 months	0.14-1.40	Up to 1 year	0.12-1.25
5 months up to 4 years	0.20-1.60	1 year up to 5 years	0.20-1.96
4 years up to 7 years	0.20-2.10	5 years up to 8 years	0.32-1.63
7 years up to 12 years	0.30-2.10	8 years up to 19 years	0.48-2.26
12 years up to 20 years	0.30-2.40		
20 years up to unspecified	0.40-3.00	19 years up to unspecified	0.60-3.00