

<b>DATE:</b>	17 March 2025
<b>TO:</b>	All Zones: Physicians, Nurses and Healthcare Providers, Laboratory Staff
<b>FROM:</b>	Clinical Biochemistry
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Changes to Alpha-Fetoprotein (AFP) Testing</b>

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### Key Message

- **Effective April 1, 2025**, testing for alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) in blood will be standardized across the province on a new test method (Roche Diagnostics) that has a higher upper reportable limit
- Edmonton Base Lab (EBL) will perform blood AFP testing for patients in North Sector and Calgary Diagnostic and Scientific Centre (DSC) will perform blood AFP testing for patients in South Sector.
- Calgary DSC will also perform AFP testing in cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) for patients in South Sector, while the University of Alberta Hospital (UAH) will continue to perform CSF AFP testing for North Sector patients with the current methodology.

### Background

- In current state, provincial AFP testing (blood and CSF) is consolidated in Edmonton.
- Concerns of delayed turnaround times impacting patient care led to the expansion of AFP testing (blood and CSF) in Calgary (DSC Chemistry).
- AFP results compare well between the current and new methods, with no significant bias observed.

### How this will impact you

- The upper reportable limit will increase from 18,000 µg/L to 60,500 µg/L for AFP testing in blood at EBL and AFP testing in blood and CSF at Calgary DSC.
- There are no changes in reference intervals.
- There is no change to ordering test codes in Connect Care.

### Action Required

- Be aware of the new upper reportable limit for AFP.

### Questions/Concerns

- Edmonton Base Lab Clinical Chemist Team, 825-394-1816, [apl.clinicalchemists@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:apl.clinicalchemists@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)
- Dr. Sally Ezra, Clinical Chemist, DSC Chemistry, 403-770-3759, [sally.ezra@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:sally.ezra@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)

### Approved by

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