

DATE:	17 March 2025
TO:	All Zones: Physicians, Nurses and Healthcare Providers, Laboratory Staff
FROM:	Clinical Biochemistry
RE:	Provincial Changes to Total Homocysteine Testing

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Key Message

- **Effective April 1, 2025**, the method and location used to measure total homocysteine will change from Abbott Architect at Edmonton Base Lab (EBL) to Roche Cobas at the Diagnostic and Scientific Center (DSC) in Calgary.
- Testing methodology, location, reference intervals, and testing frequency will change for patients within the province.

Background

- Edmonton Base Lab (EBL) is currently the only test site for total homocysteine province wide.
- The Abbott Architect instrument will no longer be in-use at EBL, requiring the tests currently run on this instrument to be run on a different instrument.

How this will impact you

- Testing methodology, location and reference intervals will change as follows:

Test		Method	Testing Location	Reference Interval	Reportable Range	Frequency of Testing
Total Homocysteine	Before April 1, 2025	Abbott Architect	EBL	3.1–10.8 µmol/L	1 – 500 µmol/L	Week Days (Mon-Fri)
	After April 1, 2025	Roche Cobas	Calgary DSC	<15yrs: ≤10.0 µmol/L 15-65 yrs: ≤15.0 µmol/L >65 yrs: ≤20.0 µmol/L	3 – 250 µmol/L	Daily

- Total homocysteine methods are not standardized. Numerical results tested post April 1, 2025, should NOT be compared to previous total homocysteine results.
 - Numerical results from the Roche cobas method are expected to be 15-25 % higher than those from the Abbott Architect.

Action Required

- There is no need to update order sets or preference lists as the current test code [LAB93] will not change.



Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

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