

<b>DATE:</b>	28 April 2025
<b>TO:</b>	North Zone: Northern Lights Regional Health Center (NLRHC) All Healthcare Providers
<b>FROM:</b>	Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Labs (APL)
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Referral of Phenobarbital Level and Theophylline Level to Edmonton for Testing</b>

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### Key Message

- Effective 25 April 2025, testing for *Phenobarbital Level* and *Theophylline Level*, which are currently performed at Northern Lights Regional Health Center (NLRHC) will be referred to laboratories in Edmonton for testing.

### Background

- This change supports improved workflow in the NLRHC lab. A provincial Regional Hospital Test Menu Standardization Working Group was formed to address test menu gaps and find efficiencies.
- Since phenobarbital and theophylline are low volume tests that are not typically required urgently, they will be referred out to laboratories located in Edmonton for testing:
  - Phenobarbital Level* testing will be performed at the University of Alberta Hospital (UAH)
  - Theophylline Level* testing will be performed at the Royal Alexandra Hospital (RAH)

### How this will impact you

- There will be no changes to test orders in Connect Care, specimen collection, minimum collection volumes, or therapeutic and critical ranges.
- Anticipated turnaround time is 24-48 hours (previously within 24 hours). Please contact the NLRHC laboratory if a STAT level is required.

### Action Required

- Be aware that turnaround times for phenobarbital and theophylline levels may increase. Please contact the laboratory if a STAT level is required.

**Effective**      **25 April 2025**

### Questions/Concerns

- Dr. Janet Zhou, Clinical Biochemist (NLRH), 825-963-5137, [janet.zhou@aplabs.ca](mailto:janet.zhou@aplabs.ca)
- Dr. Miranda Brun, Clinical Biochemist (NLRH), 780-722-4123, [miranda.brun@aplabs.ca](mailto:miranda.brun@aplabs.ca)
- Dr. Albert Tsui, Clinical Biochemist (UAH), 587-782-2674, [alberta.tsui@aplabs.ca](mailto:alberta.tsui@aplabs.ca)
- Dr. Josh Raizman, Clinical Biochemist (RAH), 780-718-2402, [josh.raizman@aplabs.ca](mailto:josh.raizman@aplabs.ca)

### Approved by

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- Dr. Osman Tutuncuoglu, Site Chief, Northern Lights Regional Hospital
- Dr. Michael Mengel, Medical Director, North Sector, APL