

DATE:	28 September 2026
TO:	All Zones: All Healthcare Professionals and Providers
FROM:	Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Change to C1 Esterase Inhibitor Quantitation Testing

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Key Message

- Effective **September 29, 2026**, C1 Esterase Inhibitor Quantitation (C1EIQ) testing will move to the Optilite instrument platform.

Background

- C1 Esterase Inhibitor is a protein that aids in the diagnosis and management of hereditary angioedema.
- The current testing instrument (nephelometer) for C1EIQ testing will no longer be used.
- The assay for serum C1EIQ will switch to a turbidimetric immunoassay method on the Optilite analyzer.
- C1 Esterase Inhibitor Quantitation is a reflex test only performed when C1 Esterase Inhibitor Functional level is low.

How this will impact you

- Fasting is preferred.
- No change to collection requirements.
- For ordering providers without access to Connect Care, use the APL General Laboratory Requisition and order this test in the "Additional Tests" field.
- The reference interval for C1 Esterase Inhibitor Quantitation will change (Table 1).

Action Required

- Be aware that C1 Esterase Inhibitor Quantitation testing will be performed using the Optilite turbidimetric immunoassay method instead of the nephelometer.
- Refer to the APL test directory for detailed test information.

Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, APL
- Dr. Michael Mengel, Medical Director, North Sector, APL

Table 1 Updated UAH Reference Interval for C1 Esterase Inhibitor Quantitation

Current RI Nephelometer	New RI Optilite
0.21 – 0.39 g/L	0.21 – 0.38 g/L