

DATE:	28 September 2026
TO:	All Zones: All Healthcare Professionals and Providers
FROM:	Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Provincial Standardization of Apolipoprotein A1 and Apolipoprotein B100 Testing

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Key Message

- Effective **September 29, 2026**, Apolipoprotein A1 (Apo A1) and Apolipoprotein B100 (Apo B100) testing will be provincially standardized to one instrument platform.

Background

- Apo A1 and Apo B100 lipoproteins serve as markers to evaluate risk for cardiovascular disease.
- The current testing instrument (nephelometer) for Apo A1 and Apo B100 at the University of Alberta Hospital (UAH) will no longer be used.
- The assay for serum and plasma Apo A1 and Apo B100 will switch to a turbidimetric immunoassay method on the Optilite analyzer at UAH. This is the same method currently used at the Calgary Immunochemistry Laboratory [Diagnostic and Scientific Centre (DSC)].
- This platform change supports provincial standardization.

How this will impact you

- For samples sent to DSC:** Lithium heparin PST is now an acceptable alternative collection container.
- For samples sent to UAH:** The reference intervals for Apo A1 will change (Table 1).

Action Required

- Fasting samples are preferred.
- There are no test order changes.
- The preferred sample type is Gold SST, however, MINT LIHEP PST is an acceptable alternative.
- Be aware that Apo A1 and Apo B100 testing at UAH will be performed using the Optilite turbidimetric immunoassay method instead of the nephelometer. Testing performed at the DSC in Calgary remains unchanged.
- Refer to the APL test directory for detailed test information.

Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

- Dr. Allison Venner, Clinical Biochemistry Section Chief, South Sector
- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, APL



Table 1 Updated UAH Reference Intervals for Apo A1

	Current RI Nephelometer		New RI Optilite
Female	0 up to 20 yrs	No reference interval.	1.20-1.90 g/L
	20 yrs up to 51 yrs	1.00-1.90 g/L	
	≥ 51 yrs	1.20-2.10 g/L	
Male	0 up to 20 yrs	No reference interval.	1.10-1.70 g/L
	≥ 20 yrs	1.00-1.90 g/L	
Unspecified	0 up to 20 yrs	No reference interval.	1.10-1.90 g/L
	≥ 20 yrs	1.00-2.10 g/L	

Note that the Apo B100 reference interval remains unchanged. Reporting for the pediatric lipid panel and individual lipid tests has recently been updated. Refer to the [Update to Pediatric Lipid Panel and Individual Lipid Test Reporting](#) laboratory bulletin for additional information.