

DATE:	13 October 2026
TO:	North, Edmonton, and Central Zones: All Healthcare Professionals and Providers
FROM:	Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	New Method for Confirming and Immunotyping Monoclonal Proteins in Serum

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Key Message

- Effective **October 20, 2026**, a new method, immunosubtraction electrophoresis (ISUB), will be implemented at Edmonton Base Lab for confirming and immunotyping monoclonal proteins.

Background

- Edmonton Base Lab is the performing site for serum protein electrophoresis (SPEP) testing from North Zone, Edmonton Zone and Central Zone.
- SPEP profiles with a pattern suspicious for monoclonal protein(s) are currently reflexed by medical/scientific laboratory staff to immunofixation electrophoresis (IFE) for confirmation and immunotyping (e.g., IgG kappa or IgM lambda).
- IFE is a manual, labor-intensive method.
- ISUB is an automated method to obtain the same type of information as IFE.

How this will impact you

- There will be no changes to ordering. Both IFE and ISUB are lab-only orderable tests, reflexed when indicated from the orderable test, "Protein electrophoresis, serum panel [LAB119]".
 - Medical/scientific laboratory staff will reflex IFE or ISUB as appropriate.
 - If IFE or ISUB is completed, the report will indicate which method was used.
- There will be no changes to confirmation and immunotyping of urine protein electrophoresis samples, which will continue to be done by IFE.
- This change does not impact South Zone or Calgary Zone.

Action Required

- Be aware of the introduction of ISUB as an additional method for confirmation and immunotyping of monoclonal proteins in serum.

Questions/Concerns

- Edmonton Base Lab Clinical Chemist Team, 825-394-1816, ebc.clinicalchemists@aplabs.ca

Approved by

- Dr. Mathew Estey, Medical Lead Clinical Biochemistry, Hub Lab, North Sector
- Dr. Erene Farag, Associate Medical Director, Hub Lab, North Sector