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Laboratory Bulletin

DATE:	9 November 2026
TO:	All Zones – Neurology, Geriatrics, and Care of the Elderly Physicians
FROM:	Clinical Biochemistry, Genetics and Genomics, External Send Outs, Alberta Precision Laboratories
RE:	**Blood pTau217 and APOE Genotyping Companion Tests for Anti-Amyloid Therapies**

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Key Message

- Lecanemab (Leqembi) and Donanemab (Kisunla) are approved by Health Canada.
    - While Lecanemab and Donanemab were recently recommended by Canada's Drug Agency for public drug plan coverage, anti-amyloid therapies have not yet been recommended for reimbursement in Alberta.
- As a result, blood pTau217 and APOE genotype testing remain unfunded in Alberta.
    - Prescribing physicians assessing eligibility for anti-amyloid therapy may direct patients willing to pay for blood pTau217 and/or APOE genotype tests to a community Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) patient service centre (PSC) for blood collection.

Background

- Lecanemab and Donanemab are anti-amyloid therapies for the treatment of patients diagnosed with early-stage Alzheimer's disease.
- The Provincial Lecanemab Working Group are developing a clinical care pathway to guide appropriate CSF and blood biomarker use for anti-amyloid therapy in eligible mild cognitive impairment patients ≥ age 50 with confirmed amyloid pathology and who do not carry the APOE ε4 allele.
- APOE ε4 homozygous individuals are at greater risk of developing potentially serious side-effects associated with anti-amyloid therapy collectively known as amyloid-related imaging abnormalities.
- Blood pTau217 and APOE genotyping companion testing can support risk stratification and establish anti-amyloid therapy eligibility.
- Indeterminate blood pTau217 levels must be confirmed with amyloid PET scan or with Neurodegenerative CSF biomarkers.

How this will impact you

- Test requests submitted on the APL General Laboratory Requisition for local blood pTau217 and/or APOE genotype testing will be cancelled. No testing will be performed.
- Only patient pay testing external to APL will be facilitated when ordered by Neurology, Geriatrics, and Care of the Elderly physicians.

Action Required

- If patient pay blood pTau217 and/or APOE genotype tests are required, and criteria above are met, refer to the *BC Providence Healthcare* website for specific test details.
    - pTau217, plasma - Research Use Only
    - Apolipoprotein E Genotyping

- To access testing, complete the APL PATIENT PAY REQUISITION - Early Alzheimer's Disease Send-Out Testing:
  - For *pTau217, plasma* and *APOE genotyping, whole blood*, test information refer to Table 1.
  - For CSF biomarker testing, refer to Neurodegenerative Profile CSF

Table 1: Blood pTau217 and APOE Genotyping Test Information

Test Name	pTau217, plasma	APOE genotyping, whole blood
Collection Tube	Lavender EDTA	Lavender EDTA
Total Cost	$225.00	$233.40

Note: Total cost includes collection, handling, shipping, testing, and GST. Price is subject to change.

- Refer the patient to a community APL patient service centre for blood collection and billing.
- If a patient presents to a hospital outpatient lab (for example the Kaye Edmonton Clinic) for testing, they will be redirected to a community APL PSC.
- Rural or remote patients should go to the PSC before they go home.
- Results will be faxed directly to the ordering physician and copy to practitioner.

Effective Immediately

Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

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