

DATE:	17 April 2023
TO:	South Zone: Physicians, Nurses and Healthcare Providers, Laboratory Staff
FROM:	Clinical Biochemistry, South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Anti-Endomesial Antibody (EMA) Testing: Backorder of Reagents

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Key Message

- There is a shortage of Anti-Endomesial Antibody (EMA) test slides. The backorder time is unknown.
- Standard process is to reflex all positive IgA Tissue Transglutaminase (TTG) results for confirmation by EMA test
 - Due to the shortage, the automated reflex will be restricted to first-time positive and pediatric patients ONLY. Further restriction may be required dependent on EMA slide availability.
- Specimens will be saved and analyzed once supply is restored.

How this will impact you

- TTG and EMA results are often used together for diagnosis and monitoring of Celiac Disease. Due to the limitation in access to EMA slides, clinical interpretation of the TTG result in the context of patient's clinical features will be required.
- This shortage does not affect availability or reflex testing of TTG-IgG testing in IgA deficient patients.

Action Required

- Expect prolonged delays in EMA test reporting until shortage is restored.

Effective

- April 14, 2023

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by

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