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DynaLIFE MEDICAL LABS

Laboratory Bulletin

DATE:	29 August 2023
TO:	South Sector: Physicians, Nurses and Healthcare Providers, Laboratory Staff
FROM:	Clinical Biochemistry, South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) & DynaLIFE Medical Labs
RE:	**Anti-Endomysial Antibody (EMA) Testing: Discontinuation of Automated Reflex**

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Key Message

- The historical automated reflex to Anti-Endomysial Antibody (EMA) testing on positive Tissue Transglutaminase-IgA (TTG-IgA) has been discontinued for all patients except for pediatric samples with TTG-IgA ≥ 150 kIU/L that are tested in Calgary.
- TTG-IgA is now recognized as the gold standard for diagnosing patients with Celiac Disease.
    - Only in select circumstances does anti-EMA add diagnostic value.
- Anti-EMA remains available to order in patients with equivocal or confounding TTG-IgA results, with approval by the Clinical Biochemist.
- The reporting comments for TTG-IgA and anti-EMA testing will be updated appropriately.

How this will impact you

- Anti-TTG and anti-EMA results are often used together for diagnosis and monitoring of Celiac Disease. However, the relatively poor sensitivity of anti-EMA testing limits its clinical value.
- In adults, a positive TTG-IgA result should be followed by a consult with gastroenterology for biopsy.
- To limit the need for biopsy in children, the anti-EMA test may be used as a confirmation of the TTG-IgA result.
- This change is for TTG-IgA and anti-EMA testing performed at DynaLIFE and APL facilities in Calgary.
    - The algorithm for these analytes tested in Edmonton will remain unchanged.

Effective

- August 31, 2023

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to

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