

DATE:	2021 July 26
TO:	All Healthcare Providers in Edmonton Zone
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL), North Sector
RE:	Centralization of vancomycin testing in Edmonton due to ongoing reagent supply shortages

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Key Message

- Vancomycin testing in Edmonton will be centralized to the University of Alberta Hospital (UAH) due to ongoing reagent supply shortages.
- This change will directly affect the following hospital sites until further notice:

Site	Current temporary testing location due to previous reagent shortage	New testing location due to ongoing reagent shortage	Date of change
MCH	Referred to RAH	UAH	July 22, 2021
GNH	Referred to RAH	UAH	July 22, 2021
RAH	On-site	UAH	September 1, 2021

MCH = Misericordia Hospital; GHN = Grey Nuns Hospital; RAH = Royal Alexandra Hospital

Background

- Ongoing reagent supply shortages across North America is disrupting our ability to perform consistent testing across different sites.
- A new vancomycin method from a different vendor will be implemented at UAH.
- This new method produces values that are interchangeable and equivalent with the previous method.
- No timeline has been provided by the vendor on resolution to the reagent shortage problem and as a result, on-site testing at RAH, MCH and GNH will be temporarily halted until further notice.
- Samples collected from other sites will continue to route to UAH.

How this will impact you

- Vancomycin samples will be routed to UAH until further notice.
- Test ordering, reference intervals, and critical values will remain unchanged
- Results reported by UAH will be available on Epic or Netcare but not be available in VAX or EDIS.
- STAT results will print on the nursing unit.
- Turnaround time (TAT) may be impacted with sample routing changes.

Action Required

- Be aware that vancomycin testing will be automatically referred to UAH until further notice.
- Results are available directly in Epic or Netcare, or as paper reports printed to the submitting location.

Questions/Concerns

- Dr. Josh Raizman, Clinical Biochemist, 780-718-2402, josh.raizman@aplabs.ca
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Approved by

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