

DATE:	21 August 2023
TO:	North, Edmonton and Central Zones: Physicians, Nurses and Healthcare Providers, and Laboratory Staff
FROM:	DynaLIFE Medical Labs (DL) and Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Change in Methodology and Performing Site for Sickle Cell Screen Panel

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Key Message

- **Effective August 22, 2023**, the Sickle Cell Screen Panel (Hemoglobin S Screen) will be discontinued at DL Edmonton; the Sickle Cell Screen Panel (Sickle Cell Solubility) will be available through APL Foothills Medical Centre (FMC) Laboratory.

Background

- The current Sickle Cell Screen Panel (Hemoglobin S Screen) offered by DL Edmonton uses the same methodology as both the Hemoglobinopathy Investigation Panel and the Hemoglobin F and S Quantitation.
 - Hemoglobinopathy Investigation Panel: most appropriate test for first-line investigation of structural hemoglobin variants and/or thalassemias
 - Hemoglobin F and S Quantitation: most appropriate test for monitoring patients with a previously characterized hemoglobinopathy

How this will impact you

- **Sickle Cell Screen Panel orders will route to APL FMC Laboratory for the Sickle Cell Solubility test.**
- Sickle Cell Solubility tests are processed on Tuesdays and Thursdays; STAT testing is not available for North, Edmonton, and Central Zone patients.
- Connect Care orderable procedures for initial investigation and ongoing monitoring of hemoglobinopathies:

Orderable Procedure <i>Test(s) Performed</i>	Hemoglobinopathy Report Format
Hemoglobinopathy Investigation Panel [LAB288] (DL) <i>Capillary electrophoresis CBC, Ferritin, Iron and TIBC</i>	Percentages of HbA, HbA2, HbF, HbS, HbC, and Other Hemoglobin Variants; Interpretation <i>Note: Lab-initiated orders for gel electrophoresis and/or molecular studies will be reported by DL (gel) or APL (molecular), including an Integrated Hemoglobinopathy Report from APL where appropriate</i>
Hemoglobin F and S Quantitation [LAB4951] (DL) <i>Capillary electrophoresis</i>	Percentages of HbA, HbA2, HbF, HbS, HbC, and Other Hemoglobin Variants; Interpretation
Sickle Cell Screen Panel [LAB7339] (APL) <i>Sickle cell solubility</i>	Positive or Negative for the presence of sickling hemoglobin(s)



Action Required

- When investigating or monitoring hemoglobinopathies, ensure the most appropriate test is ordered.

Questions

- DynaLIFE Clinical Chemists, 780-451-3702 ext. 3572 or clinical.chemists@dynamlife.ca
- APL Hematopathology/Molecular Pathology 403-944-4754

Approved by

- Dr. Mathew Estey, Provincial Director of Chemistry, DynaLIFE Medical Labs
- Dr. Erene Farag, Medical Director, DynaLIFE Medical Labs
- Dr. Meer-Taher Shabani-Rad, Hematopathology Section Chief, Alberta Precision Labs
- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Interim Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, APL