

DATE:	2021 August 23
TO:	Gastroenterology and Internal Medicine healthcare providers in North and Edmonton Zone
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL), North Sector
RE:	Consolidation of Pancreatic Cyst Fluid Carcinoembryonic Antigen (CEA) Testing to Calgary

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- **Effective immediately**, pancreatic cyst fluid carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA) tumor marker testing will be discontinued at the University of Alberta Hospital (UAH) Special Chemistry Laboratory in Edmonton and will be referred out to the Immunochemistry Lab at the Diagnostic and Scientific Centre in Calgary.

Background

- Fujirebio Diagnostics stopped producing the CEA enzyme immunoassay kit.
- Alternative CEA immunoassay options did not meet validation criteria for body fluids.
- Pancreatic cyst fluid tumor marker test volumes are low.
- Consolidation of fluid CEA testing supports Connect Care standardization.

How this will impact you

- Workflow from collection to send out has been simplified to facilitate prompt referral.
- Test name CARCINOEMBRYONIC ANTIGEN (CEA), BODY FLUID has not changed.
- Fluid CEA testing will be done by immunoassay on the Abbott Architect platform.
- CEA levels are expected to be slightly higher on the Abbott assay.
- See reference interval change below:

Current Reference Interval ELISA		New Reference Interval Abbott
Serous cystadenomas	<5µg/L	No reference interval.
Mucinous cystadenomas	>400µg/L	
Pseudocysts	5-400µg/L	

- Turnaround time (TAT) will be impacted with sample routing changes.

Action Required

- Be aware that fluid CEA testing will be referred out to the Immunochemistry Lab in Calgary.
- CEA test results should always be correlated with imaging studies, cytology, and other biochemical markers of pancreatic cysts.
- Results are available in Netcare, or as paper reports printed to the submitting location.

Questions/Concerns

- Dr. Kareena Schnabl, Clinical Biochemist, (780) 407-3186, kareena.schnabl@aplabs.ca
- Dr. Alex Chin, Clinical Biochemist, (403) 770-3222, alex.chin@aplabs.ca



**ALBERTA PRECISION
LABORATORIES**

Leaders in Laboratory Medicine

Approved by

- Dr. Hossein Sadrzadeh, Section Chief, Biochemistry, APL, South Sector
- Dr. Michael Mengel, Medical Director, APL, North Sector
- Dr. Dylan Pillai, Medical Director, APL, South Sector