

DATE:	21 August 2023
TO:	All Zones: Physicians, Nurses and Healthcare Providers, Laboratory Staff
FROM:	Clinical Biochemistry, DynaLIFE Medical Labs (DL) and Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Discontinuation of Acetylcholinesterase (Red Blood Cell Cholinesterase) Testing

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- **Effective August 30, 2023**, acetylcholinesterase (red blood cell cholinesterase) testing will be discontinued provincially.

Background

- The reagent for analysis of acetylcholinesterase has been discontinued by the manufacturer and no alternative methods are available.
- DynaLIFE Medical Labs will no longer perform acetylcholinesterase testing and there are no send out locations available.
- Pseudocholinesterase (serum cholinesterase) levels may be used to indicate exposure to organophosphate pesticides, as long as liver disease and an abnormal allele have been ruled out.

How this will impact you

- Acetylcholinesterase testing will no longer be available.

Action Required

- Do not order acetylcholinesterase (red blood cell cholinesterase) testing after August 27, 2023.
- Consider ordering pseudocholinesterase (serum cholinesterase) levels if clinically appropriate.

Questions

- DynaLIFE Edmonton: Clinical Chemist Team, 780-451-3702 ext. 3572 or clinical.chemists@dynalife.ca
- DynaLIFE Calgary: Dr. Jessica Gifford, 403-770-3779, jessica.gifford@dynalife.ca

Approved by

- Dr. Mathew Estey, Provincial Director of Chemistry, DynaLIFE Medical Labs
- Dr. Erene Farag, Medical Director, DynaLIFE Medical Labs
- Dr. Kareena Schnabl, Section Chief Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Laboratories
- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Interim Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, Alberta Precision Laboratories