

DATE:	24 July 2023
TO:	All Zones: Physicians, Nurses and Healthcare Providers, Laboratory Staff
FROM:	Clinical Biochemistry, South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Discontinuation of Beta-Carotene Assay in Alberta

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Effective August 9, 2023 Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) will no longer offer testing for beta-carotene in serum.
- This test has been discontinued by the manufacturer, due to limited test demand.
- The total carotene assay will remain available from the University of Alberta Hospital in Edmonton.

Background

- Beta Carotene is a precursor to Vitamin A and may be ordered when there is a suspicion of a Vitamin A deficiency, or when excessive intake is suspected to rule out toxicity.
- The total carotene assay includes measurement of all carotenoids within the serum sample, including beta-carotene fraction, therefore the absolute values obtained from the total carotene assay are higher than the beta-carotene assay.

How this will impact you

- Beta Carotene will no longer be orderable as of August 9, 2023

Action Required

- Order Total Carotene instead of Beta Carotene, when clinically indicated
 - Connect Care: *CAROTENE [LAB702]*

Effective

- August 9, 2023

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by

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- Dr. Paul Klonowski, Associate Medical Director, South Sector, APL