

DATE:	18 September 2023
TO:	All Physicians, Nurses, Laboratory Staff
FROM:	University of Alberta Special Chemistry Laboratory
RE:	Discontinuation of Blood Xylose Tolerance Testing

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Effective Sept 18, 2023, blood xylose tolerance testing will be discontinued provincially.

Background

- The xylose tolerance test is a historical adjunct test that was used to distinguish between intestinal and pancreatic insufficiency causes of carbohydrate malabsorption.
- Due to the manual, laborious nature of the low volume test and its very limited clinical utility, Alberta Precision Laboratories will no longer perform blood xylose tolerance testing.
- Superior performing tests are available in Alberta for inflammatory bowel disease (fecal calprotectin), Celiac disease (IgA tissue transglutaminase), lactose intolerance (hydrogen breath or lactose tolerance test), and exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (fecal elastase).

How this will impact you

- Blood xylose tolerance test will be discontinued and removed from Connect Care and test directories.

Questions or Concerns may be directed to

- Dr. Kareena Schnabl, Section Chief Chemistry (780) 407-3186 or Kareena.Schnabl@aplabs.ca

Reviewed and Approved by

- Dr. Allison Venner, Associate Section Chief Chemistry
- Dr. Mathew Estey, Provincial Lead Chemistry Community
- Dr. Michael Mengel, Associate Medical Director, North Sector
- Dr. Paul Klonowski, Associate Medical Director, South Sector