

DATE:	30 October 2023
TO:	All Physicians, Nurses, Laboratory Staff
FROM:	Provincial External Send Outs Working Group Immunochemistry Laboratory Diagnostic Scientific Centre (DSC) Calgary
RE:	Discontinuation of Native Anti-Gliadin and Anti-Reticulin Antibody Testing in Blood

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Effective October 30, 2023, *native anti-gliadin* and *anti-reticulin antibody* testing in blood will be discontinued provincially.

Background

- *Native anti-gliadin* and *anti-reticulin* are historical tests that were used to screen for Celiac Disease.
- Due to the manual, laborious nature of these low volume tests and their poor clinical utility, Alberta Precision Laboratories will no longer perform *anti-reticulin antibody* testing and will cancel *native anti-gliadin antibody* test requests for external send out.
- Superior performing tests are available in Alberta to screen for Celiac Disease
 - *Tissue transglutaminase IgA (TTG-IgA)* is the first line test to screen for Celiac Disease.

How this will impact you

- Blood *native anti-gliadin antibody* testing has been removed from the APL test directory.
- Blood *anti-reticulin antibody* testing will be discontinued and removed from Connect Care and Test Directories.
- If *native anti-gliadin* or *anti-reticulin antibody* tests are ordered on the requisition, the lab will cancel with "Test not available in Alberta".

Action Required

- Order *Tissue Transglutaminase IgA* LAB 723 in Connect Care to screen for Celiac Disease
- Do not order *total Immunoglobulin A (IgA)*. The laboratory will detect IgA deficiency and will automatically reflex order the appropriate follow-up test.
- Clinics that do not have access to Connect Care may continue ordering *TTG-IgA* on the requisition.

Questions or Concerns may be directed to

- Kareena Schnabl, Biochemist, APL Edmonton, (780) 407-3186 kareena.schnabl@aplabs.ca
- DynaLIFE Edmonton: Clinical Chemist Team, (780) 451-3702 ext 3572, clinicalchemists@dynamylife.ca
- Dennis Orton, Clinical Biochemist, APL Calgary, (403) 770-3219 dennis.orton@aplabs.ca
- Jessica Gifford, Clinical Biochemist, DynaLIFE Medical Labs Calgary, (403) 770-3779, jessica.gifford@dynamylife.ca



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Reviewed and Approved by

- Dr. Allison Venner, Clinical Biochemistry, Associate Section Chief Chemistry, APL
- Dr. Matthew Estey, Provincial Chemistry Lead, DynaLIFE Medical Labs
- Dr. Erene Farag, Provincial Medical Director, DynaLIFE Medical Labs
- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Interim Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, APL

Effective September 1, 2023, APL has become the sole provider of all public lab services in Alberta. As a result, community lab services formally provided by DynaLIFE Medical Labs will become the responsibility of Alberta Precision Labs (APL). This change impacts all zones.