

DATE:	24 July 2023
TO:	All Clinicians & All Community Providers/Prescribers, All Zones
FROM:	Dr Artur Szkotak, Hematopathology Associate Section Chief, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Discontinuation of Osmotic Fragility Testing

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Effective August 1, 2023 Osmotic Fragility testing will be discontinued in Alberta.
- The test HEREDITARY SPHEROCYTOSIS BY FLOW CYTOMETRY AND OSMOTIC FRAGILITY will no longer be orderable.
- The test HEREDITARY SPHEROCYTOSIS BY FLOW CYTOMETRY will continue to be available.

Background

- Due to low utilization, and provincial standardization with the Calgary Flow Cytometry laboratory which does not perform Osmotic Fragility, this test will be discontinued.
- In the vast majority of cases HEREDITARY SPHEROCYTOSIS BY FLOW CYTOMETRY (Eosin-5-maleimide Binding Test; EMA) is sufficient to diagnose RBC membranopathies.
- In rare cases where morphology, family history and EMA results are suspicious but inconclusive – genetic testing may be recommended.

Action Required

- Order **HEREDITARY SPHEROCYTOSIS BY FLOW CYTOMETRY** for investigation of suspected RBC membranopathies.

Effective

- 1 August 2023

Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

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