

DATE:	16 October 2023
TO:	All Healthcare Professionals and Providers in Edmonton, North and Central Zones
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	First Trimester Prenatal Risk Assessment Testing Transition to Chemistry at University of Alberta Hospital

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Effective **October 23, 2023**, First Trimester Prenatal Risk Assessment testing will transition from Newborn Screening and Biochemical Genetics laboratory (NBS/BG) to Chemistry at the University of Alberta Hospital (UAH).

Background

- First trimester Prenatal Risk Assessment provides a risk assessment for aneuploidy (trisomy 21, trisomy 18, and trisomy 13). Risk assessment is calculated from a combination of maternal serum biomarkers, ultrasound markers assessed by first trimester nuchal translucency ultrasound, and demographic information. In Alberta, this testing is performed in two locations in the province, Edmonton and Calgary.
- First trimester Prenatal Risk Assessment testing will move from NBS/BG to Chemistry UAH, which aligns with our Calgary testing site as well as other labs across Canada and internationally. This will also amalgamate first and second trimester prenatal risk assessment under one department for the Edmonton testing site.
- No change in routing of samples. NBS/BG and Chemistry currently occupy the same physical location. Internal lab processes will change to ensure samples continue to arrive at the correct department for testing.

How this will impact you

- Be aware that the testing departments will change from NBS/BG to Chemistry at UAH effective **October 23, 2023**.
- Continue to refer to existing processing for sending First Trimester Prenatal Risk Assessment samples to the UAH site for testing. Although testing departments will change, the testing site has not.
- Be aware of the new contact information for First Trimester Prenatal Risk Assessment:
 - New email: FTPSlab@aplabs.ca
 - Phone: (780) 407-1317
 - Fax: (780) 407-8857
- Turn-Around-Times will not be impacted with this transition.

Questions/Concerns

- Dr. Miranda Brun, Clinical Biochemist, APL miranda.brun2@albertaprecisionlabs.ca or (780)722-4123

Approved by

- Dr. Kareena Schnabl, Section Chief, Clinical Biochemistry
- Dr. Michael Mengel, Medical Director, North Sector

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.