

DATE:	2022 September 19
TO:	All Healthcare Providers in North, Edmonton and Central Zones that send to DynaLIFE
FROM:	DynaLIFE Medical Labs and Alberta Precision Labs (APL)
RE:	IgE Allergy Testing: Discontinuation of the Food Allergen Screen and Inhalant Screen Reflex Panel Testing, New Requisition and Changes to Reporting

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Key Messages

- **Effective September 27, 2022**, there will be several changes to IgE allergy testing offered by DynaLIFE Medical Labs in Edmonton, including:
 - Discontinuation of the Food Allergen Screen (FAS) and associated reflex Food Allergen Panels.
 - Discontinuation of seasonal Inhalant Panels that reflex from a positive Inhalant Screen.
 - Introduction of new IgE Allergy Testing requisition
 - Change in lower reporting limit for all Allergen Specific IgE tests
- These changes will (1) align with national and international recommendations for allergy investigation, (2) optimize IgE allergy testing in support of clinical allergy diagnosis for improved patient care, and (3) support provincial standardization initiatives.

Background

- To optimize the identification of clinically relevant allergens, Allergen Specific IgE tests should be carefully chosen based on the patient's symptoms and exposures.
- See [IgE Allergy Testing Educational Laboratory Bulletin](#) (June 27, 2022) for additional background and details.

How this will impact you

- The Food Allergen Screen (FAS) will no longer be available as of September 27, 2022 or when current reagent stocks are depleted, whichever is sooner. Requests for the FAS will be ordered as "Unavailable Test" and cancelled with reason "Test is unavailable".
- The Inhalant Screen will remain available and results will be reported as Positive or Negative, with no automatic reflex panel testing for positive screen results.
- All components of the FAS and the Inhalant Screen Seasonal Reflex Panels, and all previously available Allergen Specific IgE tests, will remain available as individual tests that can be ordered if clinically indicated.
- The new IgE Allergy Testing requisition lists the in-province allergens available to all ordering providers. Use of this requisition is strongly encouraged.
- The lower reporting limit for all Allergen Specific IgE tests will drop from 0.35 kU/L to 0.10 kU/L. The cut-off for positivity will remain the same at 0.35 kU/L.

Action Required

- **Do not order the Food Allergen Screen.**
- If food and/or environmental allergy investigation is clinically indicated, the appropriate individual Allergen Specific IgE(s) should be selected based on the patient's clinical history and exposures.
 - Refer to the DynaLIFE Medical Labs Test Directory page "[Allergy Testing, IgE](#)" for details on the individual Allergen Specific IgE tests that are available.



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- Access and use the new [IgE Allergy Testing requisition](#) for all IgE allergy test requests.
- ***Do not order more than 5 Allergen Specific IgE tests per patient*** per year, and do not order allergens that are not available for testing in-province (allergy specialists excluded).
- Be aware of changes to the lower reporting limit for all Allergen Specific IgE tests.
- **If you are a physician within North Zone, Edmonton Zone, and Central Zone (Red Deer and North) and have clinical allergy questions, contact the Allergy Consult Service (see contact details below).**

Questions

Clinical inquiries:

Allergy Consult Service for North, Edmonton and Central Zone (Red Deer and North) Physicians (M-F, 9am-5pm): Call the UAH switchboard at 780-407-8822 and ask for the allergist on call to be paged.

Laboratory inquiries:

DynaLIFE Clinical Chemists, 780-451-3702 ext. 3572 or clinical.chemists@dynalife.ca

Approved by

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