

<b>DATE:</b>	13 May 2024
<b>TO:</b>	All Zones: All healthcare professionals and providers
<b>FROM:</b>	Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Implementation of a factor to be applied to <i>Beta hCG</i>, <i>Quantitative</i> results on Beckman Access2</b>

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### Key Message

- Effective 21 May 2024, a new provincial factor will be applied to Beckman Access2 beta hCG quantitative results to improve agreement with beta hCG quantitative results between the two primary testing instrumentation types available across the province.

### Background

- Due to the different available testing instrumentation, beta hCG concentrations from a patient can differ when testing occurs for a patient between laboratories across the province.
- Over the next several months, standardization of beta hCG testing will lead to only two available testing instrumentation types across the province: Beckman Access2 and Roche Cobas.
  - Applying a factor to Beckman Access2 results will improve result agreement and interpretation, especially if beta hCG testing for a patient occurs at more than one site.

### How this will impact you

- Depending on patient location, beta hCG results may decrease up to 30% compared to unfactored results when testing occurs on a Beckman Access2 following implementation of the new factor (site dependent; see Appendix 1).
  - There will be no change in results for testing performed at sites where testing is performed on a Roche Cobas instrument (this includes community collections and urban hospitals).
- There will be no change to the reference interval.

### Action Required

- Be aware of the potential change in beta hCG quantitative results from sites that perform testing on a Beckman Access2 (see Appendix 1).
- For site-specific information, please contact your local laboratory.

### Questions/Concerns

- Miranda Brun, Clinical Biochemist, Edmonton Zone, APL | (780)722-4123, [miranda.brun2@aplabs.ca](mailto:miranda.brun2@aplabs.ca)
- Heather Paul, Clinical Biochemist, Calgary Zone, APL | (403)770-3634, [heather.paul@aplabs.ca](mailto:heather.paul@aplabs.ca)
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### Approved by

- Dr. Allison Venner, Clinical Biochemistry Section Chief, South Sector, APL
- Dr. Kareena Schnabl, Clinical Biochemistry Section Chief, North Sector, APL
- Dr. Dylan Pillai, Medical Director, South Sector, APL
- Dr. Michael Mengel, Medical Director, North Sector, APL



**Appendix 1. Currently impacted sites (Beckman Access2)**

Barrhead Healthcare Centre	Beaverlodge Municipal Hospital
Bonnyville Health Centre	Canmore General Hospital
Cold Lake Healthcare Centre	Edson Healthcare Centre
Fairview Health Complex	Fort Saskatchewan Community Hospital
High Prairie Health Complex	High River General Hospital
Hinton Healthcare Centre	Leduc Community Hospital
Northeast Community Health Centre	Northwest Health Centre
Peace River Community Health Centre	Ponoka Hospital and Care Centre
Strathcona Community Hospital	Slave Lake Healthcare Centre
St. Theresa General Hospital	St. Paul Healthcare Centre
Wabasca/Desmarais Healthcare Centre	Wainwright Health Centre
WestView Health Centre	Whitecourt Healthcare Centre
William J. Cadzow- Lac La Biche Healthcare Centre	

\*Sites listed are currently using Beckman Access2 instrumentation. Additional sites implementing Beckman Access2 instrumentation in future will also have factor applied.

*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.*