

DATE:	2022 October 31
TO:	All Healthcare Providers especially Gastroenterology, Internal Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy
FROM:	University of Alberta Hospital (UAH), Special Chemistry Laboratory, Edmonton
RE:	Implementation of a New Infiximab Total Antibodies Test

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- **Effective October 31, 2022** the University of Alberta Hospital (UAH), Special Chemistry Laboratory in Edmonton will offer a new Infiximab Total Antibodies test.

Background

- On August 8, 2022, all serum infiximab antibody requests were referred out of province to Prometheus Laboratories due to a failing instrument and technical challenges with reagents.
- The UAH, Special Chemistry Lab has completed method validation of a new IDK Infiximab Total Antibodies enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). This method detects both free and bound antibodies in trough specimens from IBD patients undergoing infiximab therapy.

How this will impact you

- A trough specimen collection alert has been added to the APL test directory.
- Serum gold or red top tube is the preferred sample type for infiximab level and infiximab antibody. Plasma lavender EDTA tubes are an acceptable alternative.
- For subtherapeutic concentrations (Infiximab Level <3.0 ug/mL), the laboratory will reflex test for antibodies to infiximab. Presence of antibodies to infiximab is unlikely for levels above 3.0 µg/mL.
- The presence of endogenous infiximab is an interference in most antibodies to infiximab methods. Tolerance up to 40 µg/mL has been validated for the Infiximab Total Antibody assay.
- The reference interval and units have changed.

Infiximab Antibody Test	Method	Reference Interval	Units	Comment
Old Infiximab Antibodies	ELISA	<2	ug/mL	Dose optimize
New Infiximab Total Antibodies	ELISA	<25	AU/mL	Dose optimize

- The expected turnaround time for Infiximab Total Antibody results is within 1 week.
- Reports are available in Epic and Netcare. Physicians not on Connect Care will receive a paper report in the mail.

Action Required

- Draw blood immediately before next scheduled dose (trough specimen)
- Be aware of changes to testing lab, sample type, and reporting.
- For urgent requests or discrepant result investigation, contact Client Response at 780-407-7484 for the Biochemist on call information.

Questions/Concerns

- Dr. Kareena Schnabl, Clinical Biochemist, (780) 407-3186, kareena.schnabl@aplabs.ca

Approved by

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