

<b>DATE:</b>	5 February 2024
<b>TO:</b>	North, Edmonton, and Central Zones (sites that refer testing to Edmonton): All Physicians, Nurses, and Managers
<b>FROM:</b>	Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Labs (APL)
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Implementation of <i>Extractable Nuclear Antigen Antibodies</i> Test on the Bioplex Instrument</b>

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### Key Message

- Effective February 5, 2024, serum *Extractable Nuclear Antigen Antibodies (ENA)* testing at the University of Alberta Hospital, Special Chemistry laboratory in Edmonton, will transition from the Luminex analyzer to the Bioplex analyzer to align with the Calgary Immunochemistry laboratory.

### Background

- On December 11, 2023, Alberta Precision Laboratories began Bioplex implementation as part of a large-scale provincial project to standardize chemistry instrumentation. This initiative will reduce the variation of autoantibody immunoassays in Alberta.
- ENA* antibodies are useful for evaluating patients suspected of having connective tissue disease following a positive *Anti-Nuclear Antibody (ANA)* screen.

### How this will impact you

- The components of the *ENA* panel will change.
  - ✓ Anti-chromatin will replace Anti-histone for investigation of drug-induced lupus.
  - ✓ New autoantibodies detected include ribosomal P, SS-A/Ro 52, RNP A, RNP 68, and SmRNP.
- ENA* units will change from mean fluorescence units (MFU) to autoantibody index (AI).
- The new lower limit for the *ENA* test is <0.2 and the new upper limit is >8.
- The reference interval will change from <120 MFU to ≤ 0.9 AI.
- Known patients monitored overtime will require re-baselining due to differences in *ENA* results and reference intervals between Luminex and Bioplex *ENA* methods.

### Action Required

- Be aware of changes to *ENA* assay and lab reporting. Refer to [APL ENA test directory](#).
- Patients having serial monitoring at the time of transition may need a new baseline for comparison.
- For urgent requests, contact the on-call clinical biochemist.

### Questions/Concerns

- Dr. Kareena Schnabl, Clinical Biochemist: 780 407-3186; [kareena.schnabl@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:kareena.schnabl@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)

### Approved by

- Dr. Michael Mengel, Medical Director, North Sector, APL
- Dr. Allison Venner, Associate Section Chief, Clinical Biochemistry, APL
- Dr. Paul Klonowski, Associate Medical Director, South Sector, APL

*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.*