

| | |
|--------------|--|
| DATE: | 4 March 2024 |
| TO: | All Physicians, Nurses, and Healthcare Providers |
| FROM: | Alberta Precision Laboratories |
| RE: | Laboratory Providing Lactose Tolerance Drinks |

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) outpatient and community collection departments will provide the drink required for Lactose Tolerance Testing.

Background

- There have been varied practices in the province on how the lactose tolerance drink is procured. In some zones the lab has been providing the drink. In others, patients have been instructed to obtain a prescription from their physician for a pharmacy to dispense the drink.
- Provincial standardization of lactose drink procurement practices will simplify the testing process for both patients and physicians.

How this will impact you

- Physicians will no longer need to provide patients with a prescription to obtain the lactose drink from a pharmacy.

Action Required

- Provide the patient with [Patient Instructions – Lactose Tolerance Test](#).
- A prescription for the lactose drink is not required.
- Continue to instruct patients to book a lab appointment for this test.

Effective March 4, 2024

Questions/Concerns

- Kayla Hladunewich, Manager Patient Service Centres North, APL – Kayla.Hladunewich@aplabs.ca
- Mandie Zoller, Manager Patient Service Centres South, APL – Mandie.Zoller@aplabs.ca
- Ann Arseneau, PreAnalytics Discipline Lead – APL; Ann.Arseneau@aplabs.ca

Approved by

- Dr. Alber Tsui, Section Chief, PreAnalytic, APL
- Dr. Peet van der Walt, Associate Medical Director, North, Community Services, APL
- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, 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.