



Date: February 22, 2021
To: All Ordering Providers – Calgary Zone, South Zone, Central Zone
Alberta Precision Laboratories – All Staff
From: Clinical Biochemistry Section, South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
Re: Methotrexate assay change for Calgary Zone, South Zone, and Hanna, Drumheller and Three Hills areas of Central Zone

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Key Message:

- Effective Monday March 1, 2021, the Methotrexate assay at Alberta Children's Hospital used to test specimens collected in Calgary Zone, South Zone and Hanna, Drumheller and Three Hills in Central Zone will change.
- **This new assay produces results that are on average 15% lower than the previous assay. Please note that flagging limits are provincially standardized and are not changing with the implementation of the new assay.**

Why this is Important:

- Accurate interpretation of patient methotrexate level is essential for providing optimal patient care.

Background:

- The switch to a new assay was made to realize a significant cost savings for APL as well to standardize Methotrexate assays between the South and North Sectors of APL.
- Other than producing slightly lower results, this assay performs similarly to the previous assay.

Action Required:

- Be aware of the above noted change in performance.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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