

DATE:	14 November 2023
TO:	All Zones: All Healthcare Professionals and Providers
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Provincial Community Stat Testing Standardization

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Effective November 20, 2023, a standardized Provincial Community Stat Process and Test List will be implemented at all Patient Service Centres (formerly DynaLIFE Medical Labs) and hospital outpatient collection sites across the province.
- The Provincial Community Stat Test list (Appendix A) is only applicable to community collections performed at Patient Service Centres and hospital outpatient collection sites.
- A test should only be ordered as Stat in an urgent medical situation where a same-day result is expected to directly affect patient care.
- For tests not on the Provincial Community Stat Test List, consultation with a laboratory medical staff as indicated below is required prior to ordering. Otherwise, the tests will proceed as routine.
 - If patients will go to a Patient Service Centre for collection, consult an APL Community Services (formerly DynaLIFE) Pathologist or Clinical Chemist. See Appendix B.
 - If patients will go to a hospital outpatient collection site, contact the [local AHS / APL laboratory or collection facility](#) and ask for appropriate medical consultant.
- Specimens collected at Patient Service Centres within the city of Edmonton and Calgary areas will be forwarded to the respective hub labs and those outside of these areas will be forwarded to the nearest testing laboratory. See "Appendix A" for exceptions.
- Specimen collection, transportation and testing will be expedited.
- Results will be available on the same day.

Background

- Due to variable practices and test lists across the province, standardization will provide equal access and consistency to community Stat laboratory testing in Alberta.

Action Required

- Review the Provincial Community Stat Test List. See Appendix A.
- Clearly indicate Stat on the requisition next to the test being ordered.
- For tests not listed on the Provincial Community Stat Test List, consult the laboratory prior to ordering. If this step is omitted, testing will proceed as routine.
- For Stat orders, have the patient present to a Patient Service Centre or hospital outpatient collection site on the same day. A standing order requisition is not appropriate for Stat test ordering



- Ensure the current contact information is up to date. Critical results will be phoned to the ordering provider.
- Community Stat test requests will be audited to ensure appropriateness.

Effective

- November 20, 2023

Questions/Concerns

- Dr. Peet van der Walt, Associate Medical Director, Community Lab Services, North, peet.vanderwalt@dynamylife.ca
- Dr. Leland Baskin, Associate Medical Director, Community Lab Services, South, leland.baskin@dynamylife.ca
- Dr. Albert Tsui, Pre-Analytics Section Chief, albert.tsui@aplabs.ca

Approved by

- Dr. Erene Farag, Provincial Medical Director, Community Lab Services
- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Interim Chief Medical Laboratory Officer

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.



Appendix A: Provincial Community Stat Testing List (as of November 2023)

GENERAL CHEMISTRY

Alanine Aminotransferase (ALT)
Bilirubin, Total and Conjugated
Bilirubin, Neonatal¹
Beta hCG, Quantitative
Calcium
Chloride
Creatinine
Electrolyte Panel
Glucose, Random
Lipase
Magnesium
Potassium
Sodium

URINE

Urinalysis
Pregnancy Test

HEMATOLOGY

CBC
CBC and Differential
Hemoglobin
INR
Partial Thromboplastin Time (PTT)
Platelet Count

THERAPEUTIC DRUG MONITORING²

Carbamazepine Level
Digoxin Level
Lithium Level
Phenytoin Level
Theophylline Level
Valproate Level

MICROBIOLOGY

Malaria³
Blood and Body Fluid Exposure⁴

1. Consolidated at FMC and UAH in Calgary and Edmonton respectively
2. Only performed in Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Fort McMurray, Red Deer, Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat. Request from outside these areas will require additional transport time.
3. Test availability and methodology differs by zone. Test turnaround time will be variable.
4. Testing performed by ProVLab. Requests from outside Edmonton and Calgary will require additional transport time.



Appendix B: Laboratory clinical consultant contact information.

Patient Service Centers (formerly DynaLIFE):

Zone	Weekdays 8 am to 5 pm	Afterhours and Weekends
Edmonton, Central and North Zone	Clinical Chemists 780-451-3702 Ext 3572	General Pathologist 780-445-1274
	Hematopathologists 780-451-3702 Ext 7300	
	Medical Microbiologist 780-451-3702 / ROCA / Hospital switchboard	
Calgary and South Zone	General Pathologist 403-860-1802	
	Medical Microbiologist 403-770-3757	

Rural Hospitals:

Contact local on-call pathologist / hematopathologist / biochemist.