

DATE:	1 December 2023
TO:	All Zones – Physicians, Nurses, and Managers
FROM:	Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Labs (APL)
RE:	Referral of Acetylcholine Receptor Antibody Blood Test to BC Neuroimmunology Lab

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Effective **immediately**, all *Acetylcholine Receptor Antibody (ACHRQ)* test requests will be referred out to BC Neuroimmunology Lab.

Background

- The gamma counter instrument experienced a mechanical failure. Alberta Precision Labs has a provincial contingency plan for equipment and all impacted radioimmunoassay tests.

How this will impact you

- Blood samples must be received with a completed *Alberta General Laboratory Requisition* or a *BC Neuroimmunology Lab Requisition*. Indicate if patients are on or have recently had IVIG treatment.
- Serum will be stored frozen and shipped out on Mondays (from Calgary Diagnostic Scientific Centre) and Tuesdays (from Edmonton University of Alberta Hospital).
- BC Neuroimmunology ACHRQ test uses a gold standard radioimmunoprecipitation assay (RIPA).
- The new reference interval is shown below:

Absent	<0.2 nmol/L
Borderline	0.2 – 2.0 nmol/L
Low Positive	2 – 5 nmol/L
Medium Positive	5 – 10 nmol/L
High Positive	>10 nmol/L

- All positive ACHRQ samples following qualitative screen will be repeated using a quantitative assay. All negative ACHRQ samples (<2 nmol/L) will reflex to muscle specific tyrosine kinase (MUSK) antibody.
- Expected turnaround time is up to 3 weeks.
- Reports will be scanned into Connect Care and found under the Media tab. Reports will not be available in Netcare. Ordering providers not on Connect Care will receive the report in the mail.

Action Required

- Refer to the BC Neuroimmunology website [Tests Overview - BC Neuroimmunology](#) for the lab requisition and specimen collection information.



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Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

- Dr. Michael Mengel, Medical Director, APL, North Sector

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.