



**Date:** December 14, 2020  
**To:** Lethbridge and Area Physicians, Nursing Staff and Laboratory Staff  
**From:** Clinical Biochemistry, South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)  
**Re:** Referral of Amylase testing to Calgary

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**Key Message:**

- Effective **December 15, 2020**, serum and fluid amylase will no longer be measured at Chinook Regional Hospital in Lethbridge and will be referred to the Diagnostic Scientific Centre in Calgary.
- Anticipated turnaround time is 24 hours.
- Results will be available in Netcare and Physician Office Systems (POS).

**Why this is Important:**

- Lipase has supplanted Amylase for diagnosis of acute pancreatitis, as Amylase is nonspecific and may arise from either salivary glands as well as the pancreas.
- The clinical utility of Amylase is mostly limited to diagnosis of salivary gland disease or some forms of malignancy.

**Action Required:**

- Order AMYRO for Amylase, serum testing. Refer to the APL Test Directory - [Amylase](#) for instructions.
- Order AMYFLURO for Amylase, fluid testing. Refer to the APL Test Directory - [Amylase, Fluid](#) for instructions.

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

- Dr. Dennis Orton, Clinical Biochemist, South Sector - Chinook Regional Hospital, (403) 770-3219, [Dennis.Orton@aplabs.ca](mailto:Dennis.Orton@aplabs.ca)

**This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:**

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