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| DATE: | 2022 August 26 |
| TO: | All Zones: Physicians, Nurses and Healthcare Providers, Laboratory Staff |
| FROM: | Clinical Biochemistry, South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) |
| RE: | Referral of Plasma Catecholamines Testing and Tube Type Change |

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Plasma Catecholamines testing in Diagnostic Scientific Centre in Calgary has been temporarily discontinued due to instrument failure.
- Until further notice, Plasma Catecholamines testing will be referred to Dynacare in Ontario.

How this will impact you

- Plasma Catecholamines is an auxiliary test to fractionated Plasma and Urine Metanephrines useful for diagnosis of pheochromocytoma and paraganglioma with the Plasma Metanephrines being the preferred test for this diagnosis. Plasma Metanephrines is run weekly in Calgary, so the recommendation is to order this test.
- Referral of testing may result in an increased turnaround time for Plasma Catecholamines.
- As this is a non-standard test, reference intervals may change. Refer to patient reports for more information.

Action Required

- Tube type requirement has changed to Lavender EDTA. For specimen collection instructions consult the test directory: [Alberta Precision Laboratories | Lab Services \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/lab-services)

Effective

- August 25, 2022

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to

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