



DATE:	2022 May 16
TO:	North Zone, Edmonton Zone and Central Zone
FROM:	Penny Colbourne, PhD, F-ABFT
RE:	Reporting of Methotrexate Levels – University of Alberta Hospital – Toxicology Laboratory

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Effective immediately, methotrexate levels >99.99 umol/L will flag as “high” not “critical”. Methotrexate levels >99.99 umol/L will no longer be phoned. Results will route as per usual procedures.

Why this is important

- Monitoring of methotrexate levels on patients managed with high dose methotrexate (e.g. oncology) require methotrexate level monitoring at specific time points to ensure adequate clearance of the drug. Values >99.99 umol/L were historically flagged as critical to alert the care team to the higher than expected value. Flagging the result as critical also necessitated a phone call to the authorizing prescriber (or designate). Since these patients are closely monitored by the care team a phone call was no longer deemed necessary. This change also allows provincial standardization of methotrexate reporting.

Action Required

- No action is required on your part. Be aware methotrexate levels >99.99 umol/L will no longer flag as critical (they will flag as high) and will not be phoned. Results will route as per usual procedures.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to

- Dr. Penny Colbourne, Clinical Toxicologist, University of Alberta Hospital - Toxicology Laboratory, 780- 407-4729

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by

- Dr. Kareena Schnabl, Section Chief Biochemistry, North Sector
- Dr. Michael Mengel, Medical Director, North Sector