



**Date:** March 8, 2021  
**To:** South, Central, and Calgary Zones  
**From:** Genetics and Genomics, Biochemical Genetics South  
**Re:** Temporary Referral of Arylsulfatase A Activity Testing

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**Key Message:**

- Due to current Connect Care implementation and validation demands, effective February 16, 2021, the Biochemical Genetics South laboratory (BGL South), located at the Alberta Children's Hospital, will be temporarily referring out testing for Arylsulfatase A enzyme activity to the Metabolic Diseases Laboratory at the Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto. We expect to continue referring out this testing until at least the end of 2021.
- Referring this testing out to Sick Kids has resulted in a change to the required **specimen handling**: A leukocyte preparation (rather than a T-cell culture) will need to be performed by the ACH BGL on the specimen prior to send out. Therefore, upon collection, samples must arrive at the ACH BGL no later than **12:00** on the **same day** (NOT WITHIN 48H) of collection.

**Why this is important:**

- Collection sites that routinely refer testing to the ACH BGL need to be aware that the **sample handling** requirements for this test have changed, in order to:
  - Prevent test cancellation due to inappropriate specimen handling
  - Avoid unnecessary repeat collections, potentially leading to patient harm
  - Ensure that viable specimens can be referred out for testing

**Action Required:**

- All South Sector collection sites should review the Alberta Precision Laboratories Test Directory for Arylsulfatase A, Leukocyte.  
[Alberta Precision Laboratories | Lab Services \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/precision-labs/lab-services)

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

- Alberta Children's Hospital Biochemical Genetics Laboratory: 403-955-7380

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

- Dr. Dennis Bulman, Medical/Scientific Director, Genetics & Genomics, APL
- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer (Interim), APL