

<b>DATE:</b>	4 December 2023
<b>TO:</b>	North, Edmonton, and Central Zones (sites that refer to Edmonton University of Alberta Hospital): All Physicians, Nurses, and Managers
<b>FROM:</b>	Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Labs (APL)
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Temporary Referral of Gastrin to Calgary</b>

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### Key Message

- **Effective immediately**, serum Gastrin testing at the University of Alberta Hospital (UAH) Special Chemistry Laboratory will be temporarily sent out to the Diagnostic and Scientific Centre (DSC) Immunochemistry Laboratory in Calgary.

### Background

- The instrument used for Gastrin measurement has reached end of life and is now inoperable.
- Temporary rerouting to Calgary will provide service continuity while APL works toward implementing a new instrument.
- The DSC assay for Gastrin is performed by chemiluminescent immunoassay on the Siemens Immulite.

### How this will impact you

- The Calgary Siemens Immulite method differs from the UAH radioimmunoassay method.
- The reference interval for Gastrin Secretin Stimulation will change (Appendix Table 1).
- Blood collected into a gold top serum separator tube (SST) following a 10hr fast is the preferred sample type.
- Patients with suspected gastrinoma must avoid from proton pump inhibitors for 2 weeks, histamine 2 antagonists for 3 days, and other antacid therapy for 1 day prior to measuring fasting serum Gastrin.
- Timed Gastrin collections may be requested as part of a Secretin Stimulation test.
- Testing at DSC is performed weekly. Turnaround time (TAT) from sample collection to reporting for routine orders will be 1-2 weeks.

### Action Required

- Rebaselining is recommended for Gastrin on patients that require serial measurements due to lack of result interchangeability between laboratories (Appendix Table 1).
- Expected TAT times will be 1-2 weeks.
- Reports will continue to be available in Connect Care and Netcare.

### Questions/Concerns

- Dr. Josh Raizman, Clinical Biochemist APL, [josh.raizman@aplabs.ca](mailto:josh.raizman@aplabs.ca), 780-718-2402
- Dr. Dennis Orton, Clinical Biochemist APL, [dennis.orton@aplabs.ca](mailto:dennis.orton@aplabs.ca), 403-770-3219

### Approved by

- Dr. Kareena Schnabl, Section Chief Clinical Biochemistry, APL
- Dr. Allison Venner, Associate Section Chief, Clinical Biochemistry, APL
- Dr. Michael Mengel, Medical Director, North Sector, APL



## Appendix

<b>Gastrin test</b>	<b>Edmonton reference interval</b>	<b>Calgary reference interval</b>
Fasting for 10hr	<100 ng/L	<100 ng/L
Secretin Stimulation	≥20 ng/L	≥10 ng/L

Table 1. Gastrin reference intervals reported from the Siemens Immulite method in Calgary.

*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.*