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| <b>DATE:</b> | 5 February 2024  |
| <b>TO:</b>   | North-East Central Zone: Physicians, Nursing Managers, Nursing Educators, Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Laboratory Directors, Managers, Supervisors |
| <b>FROM:</b> | Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)  |
| <b>RE:</b>   | <b>Temporary Referral of Quantitative Serum / Plasma hCG Testing from St. Mary's Hospital (Camrose) to Edmonton Base Lab</b>   |

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## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

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### Key Message

- The current instrument at St. Mary's Hospital (Camrose) for beta hCG testing in serum / plasma is inoperable and cannot be repaired
  - Effective immediately, all requests for beta hCG testing in serum / plasma in North-East Central Zone will be directed from St. Mary's Hospital (Camrose) to Edmonton Base Lab for testing and reporting.
  - The interim expected turnaround time for results is within 36 hours.
- This change will be in place until a new immunochemistry instrument is installed in the lab later this year. An updated timeline for reimplementing on-site testing will be provided when this information is available.

### How this will impact you

- *For staff at St. Mary's Hospital (Camrose):*
  - Routine samples will be batched once per day and sent to Edmonton with the 1900hr courier.
  - For all STAT samples, please inform lab if the testing can wait for the courier or if the specimen needs to be sent by cab immediately.
  - Please note: Urine beta hCG testing remains available onsite.

### Action Required

- Please use appropriate test code **Beta hCG, Quantitative [LAB143]** to refer hCG testing to Edmonton

### Questions/Concerns

- Dr. Yury Butorin, Clinical Biochemist, APL, 403-406-5633 | [yury.butorin@aplabs.ca](mailto:yury.butorin@aplabs.ca)
- Cathy Bartley, Regional Technologist, APL, 780-581-3164 | [catherine.bartley@aplabs.ca](mailto:catherine.bartley@aplabs.ca)
- Edmonton Base Lab: Clinical Chemist Team, 780-451-3702 ext. 3572 | [clinical.chemists@dynalife.ca](mailto:clinical.chemists@dynalife.ca)

### Approved by

- Dr. Allison Venner, Clinical Biochemistry Associate Section Chief, APL
- Dr. Mathew Estey, Director of Clinical Chemistry, Community Lab Services, APL
- Dr. Heidi Paulin, General Pathology Section Chief Clinical Biochemistry, South Sector, APL
- Dr. Paul Klonowski, Associate Medical Director, South Sector, APL
- Dr. Kareena Schnabl, Clinical Biochemistry Section Chief, APL
- Dr. Michael Mengel, Medical Director, North Sector, APL

*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.*