

DATE:	4 March 2024
TO:	All Pathologists and Hematologists/Oncologists in South Sector Alberta
FROM:	Molecular Pathology, Alberta Precision Labs
RE:	Testing Change – PML::RARA t(15;17) fusion detection in new and existing Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia (APL) patients

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- As of 4 March, 2024, all PML::RARA t(15;17) requests received in the Calgary DSC Molecular Pathology Lab for monitoring existing cases of acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL) will be tested by the PML::RARA (*quantitative*) assay in the Edmonton Molecular Pathology lab.
- All PML::RARA test requests received in the Calgary DSC Molecular Pathology lab for initial diagnosis of APL will continue to be tested by the PML::RARA (**qualitative**) assay in the Edmonton Molecular Pathology lab.

Background

- As communicated in the February 6, 2023 lab bulletin, PML::RARA testing for APL were to be forwarded to the Edmonton Molecular Pathology lab for testing.
- Historically, only the PML::RARA (**qualitative**) assay was performed in Calgary, so that all requests regardless of indication were tested by this methodology.
- This has been identified as a discrepancy in care between northern and southern Alberta that requires standardization.
- The PML::RARA (*quantitative*) analysis is the appropriate testing methodology for monitoring existing cases of APL.

How this will impact you

- All requests for PML::RARA testing regardless of indication in the South Sector should be collected and sent to the DSC Molecular Pathology laboratory for nucleic acid extraction, which will be forwarded to the Edmonton Molecular Pathology laboratory.
- Routine PML::RARA follow-up testing received in the Calgary DSC Molecular Pathology lab will be forwarded to the Edmonton Molecular Pathology laboratory and tested via the *quantitative* assay.
- PML::RARA testing for new cases of APL received in the Calgary DSC Molecular Pathology lab will be forwarded to the Edmonton Molecular Pathology laboratory and tested via the **qualitative** assay.

Action Required

- **South Sector Pathologists:** This change does not impact existing test ordering workflows. No change in practice is required due to this change.
- **Southern Alberta Oncologists and Hematologists:** There is no change in specimen acquisition or ordering.



- Results for both **qualitative** and *quantitative* PML::RARA testing will be listed in Netcare / Connect Care.
- For assay descriptions, please refer to APL Test Directory, PML::RARA t(15;17) Translocation

Effective March 4, 2024

Questions/Concerns

- Adrian Box, Medical/Scientific Director, Molecular Pathology Program
Adrian.Box@albertaprecisionlabs.ca
- Erik Nohr, Scientific Lead, Molecular Pathology South Erik.Nohr@aplabs.ca

Approved by

- Adrian Box, Medical/Scientific Director, Molecular Pathology Program
- Mark Douesnard, Operations Director, Molecular Pathology Program
- Dr. Michael Mengel, Medical Director (on behalf of Dr. O'Hara)

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.