

<b>DATE:</b>	10 June 2024
<b>TO:</b>	All Zones: All Healthcare Professionals and Providers
<b>FROM:</b>	Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Update to Bile Acid Reference Intervals</b>

---

## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

---

### Key Message

- Effective June 25, 2024, serum bile acid reference intervals will be updated to reflect the assay standardization provincially.
- The new reference interval for 12 months of age and greater is less than 10 µmol/L (current is less than 8.2 µmol/L).
- Reference intervals for up to 12 months of age will remain the same.
  - Less than 1 month of age: less than 70 µmol/L
  - 1 month up to 3 months of age: less than 41 µmol/L
  - 3 months up to 12 months of age: less than 30 µmol/L

### Background

- Serum bile acids performed at University of Alberta Hospital (UAH) laboratory will change methodology and align with the same method already used at Foothill Medical Center (FMC) laboratory.
- Provincial alignment of methods allows results to be comparable between the two testing laboratories.

### How this will impact you

- Bile acid concentrations tested at UAH will change. There will be approximately 2 µmol/L increase for levels less than 15 µmol/L and an average of 15 % decrease for levels greater than 15 µmol/L in the new method compared to the current method.
- Bile acid concentrations tested at FMC will remain unchanged.

### Action Required

- Be aware of the updates to reference intervals, and refer to the APL [Test Directory](#) for test details.
- Consider re-baselining bile acid test results if trending from results previously obtained at UAH.

### Inquiries and feedback may be directed to

- Dr. Albert Tsui, Clinical Biochemist, APL, 587-782-2674 | [albert.tsui@aplabs.ca](mailto:albert.tsui@aplabs.ca)
- Dr. Isolde Seiden Long, Clinical Biochemist, APL, 403-944-3993 | [isolde.seidenlong@aplabs.ca](mailto:isolde.seidenlong@aplabs.ca)

### This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by

- Dr. Kareena Schnabl, Clinical Biochemistry Section Chief, North Sector, APL
- Dr. Allison Venner, Clinical Biochemistry Section Chief, South Sector, APL
- Dr. Michael Mengel, Medical Director, North Sector, APL
- Dr. Dylan Pillai, Medical Director, South 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.*