

DATE:	20 February 2024
TO:	Physicians and Staff at Leduc Community Hospital, Westview Health Centre, Devon General Hospital, Peace River Community Health Centre, and Lac La Biche Healthcare Centre
FROM:	Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) North Sector
RE:	Update to Plasma Ammonia Testing and Reference Interval at Leduc Community Hospital, Westview Health Centre, Devon General Hospital, Peace River Community Health Centre, and Lac La Biche Healthcare Centre

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Key Message

- On 21 February 2024, the method for ammonia testing will change for samples collected at Leduc Community Hospital (LCH), Westview Health Centre (STO), and Devon General Hospital (DVH). Reference intervals with this method are different than current reference intervals (Table 1).
- Reference intervals at Peace River Community Health Centre (PRH) and Lac La Biche Health Centre (LLB) will be updated (Table 1). There is no change to methodology at these sites.

Sites	Age	Current reference interval	New reference interval
DVH LCH STO	0 to < 3 months	> 110 µmol/L	< 85 µmol/L
	≥ 3 months	20-50 µmol/L	≤ 30 µmol/L
LLB PRH	0 to < 3 months	< 85 µmol/L	No change
	≥ 3 months	9-30 µmol/L	≤ 30 µmol/L

Background

- Different methods for ammonia testing have bias between results. Implementation of ammonia testing on Vitros chemistry platforms at LCH and STO requires an update to reference intervals for these sites and DVH which sends samples for plasma ammonia testing to LCH.
- There is no change to critical limits.

Action Required

- No change to ordering or collection for ammonia.
- Be aware of changes to method and reference intervals for ammonia at impacted sites.

Effective 21 February 2024

Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

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