

DATE:	20 July 2023
TO:	All Zones: Physicians, Nurses and Healthcare Practitioners, and all Laboratory Services Staff
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) and DynaLIFE Medical Labs
RE:	Urea Breath Test for Helicobacter Pylori Temporarily Unavailable

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Key Message

- Constrained supply levels of the urea breath test (UBT) collection kit used by laboratories across Canada are impacting testing throughout Alberta.
- Due to a lack of UBT collection kit supply, the UBT will be temporarily unavailable at a number of locations across the province.
 - During this time, new appointments for the UBT will not be booked, and new requests for the UBT will not be performed.
 - Existing appointments will be honored wherever possible.
- This is expected to be a temporary issue – supply is expected to return to normal by July 31, 2023.
- Availability of the H. pylori stool antigen test (HpSAT) is not impacted. The HpSAT remains the first line test for H. pylori in South, Calgary and Edmonton Zones, as well as all DynaLIFE Patients Services Centers across Alberta.

Background

- The supplier of the laboratory UBT collection kit used in Alberta has indicated that the product is not currently available nationally; resolution of this issue is expected by July 31, 2023.

Action Required

- Please postpone urea breath test requests until July 31, 2023.
- An appointment should be booked for the UBT.

Questions/ Concerns

- DynaLIFE Clinical Chemists, 780-451-3702 ext. 3572, clinical.chemists@dynalife.ca

Approved by

- Dr. Mathew Estey, Director of Clinical Chemistry, DynaLIFE Medical Labs
- Dr. Erene Farag, Provincial Medical Director, DynaLIFE Medical Labs
- Dr. Albert Tsui, Pre-Analytics Section Chief, APL
- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Interim Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, APL