

Date: May 6, 2019
To: Edmonton Zone and North Zone – Physicians, Nurses, Laboratory Directors and Managers
From: Alberta Public Laboratories (APL) and DynaLIFE Medical Labs
Re: Changes to Reference Intervals and Critical Values for Potassium

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Key Message:

- Effective **May 8, 2019**, new provincial reference intervals and critical values for potassium will be implemented throughout Edmonton Zone and at the following locations in North Zone: Fort McMurray, Fort Vermillion, High Level and La Crete.
- This update will standardize potassium reference intervals and critical values to align with the province.
- The new reference intervals and critical values are applicable to both sexes and to all genders.

Reference Intervals:

Age	Potassium (mmol/L)	
	APL and DynaLIFE North Zone Sites	DynaLIFE Base Lab
0 – 28 days	3.5 – 6.0	3.5 – 6.0
29 – 364 days	3.5 – 5.5	3.5 – 5.5
1 – 150 years	3.5 – 5.0	3.6 – 5.2

Note: Potassium reference intervals at DynaLIFE Base Lab are slightly higher than APL and DynaLIFE North Zone Sites to account for the increased potassium concentration in serum as compared to plasma.

Critical Values:

Age	Potassium (mmol/L)
0 – 28 days	<3.0 & >6.4
29 days – 17 years	<3.0 & >6.0
18 – 150 years	<2.6 & >6.2

Action Required:

- Review new reference intervals and critical values; result reporting will be automatically updated to reflect the new values.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Albert Tsui, Clinical Biochemist, Alberta Public Laboratories at: 587-782-2674 or Albert.Tsui@albertapubliclabs.ca
- Dr. Michelle Parker, Clinical Chemist, DynaLIFE Medical Labs at: 780-451-3702 ext. 8507, ext. 3572 or Michelle.Parker@dynalife.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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