



Date: June 29, 2020
To: Edmonton Zone – Physicians, Nurses, Laboratory Directors and Managers
From: Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) and DynaLIFE Medical Labs
Re: Changes to Serum/Plasma Albumin Results and Reference Intervals

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Key Message:

- Effective **July 7th, 2020**, updates to albumin methods and reference intervals will be implemented at a number of sites in the Edmonton Zone.
- These changes will improve accuracy of albumin results and allow alignment to provincially standardized reference intervals (Provincial RIs).

Albumin Testing Site	Current Reference Intervals	Updated Reference Intervals	Expected Changes to Albumin Values
DynaLIFE	Provincial RIs 0 – 364 days: 22 – 45 g/L ≥ 365 days: 30 – 45 g/L	Same (Provincial RIs)	Average decrease of 3 to 4 g/L (or 10%), with larger changes at lower concentrations and/or in the presence of inflammation.
*UAH			
*RAH, GNH, MIS, SGH	< 3 months: 26 – 36 g/L 3 – 23 months: 30 – 45 g/L ≥ 2 years: 35 – 50 g/L	Provincial RIs	

*UAH = University of Alberta Hospital; RAH = Royal Alexandra Hospital; GNH = Grey Nuns Hospital; MIS = Misericordia Hospital; SGH = Sturgeon Hospital

Why this is important:

- When Wave 1 Connect Care was launched in Nov 2019, Provincial RIs for albumin were implemented at DynaLIFE and UAH; however, these Provincial RIs were misaligned with the testing methods in use, resulting in inappropriate abnormal flagging of some patient results.
- All sites will be adjusting albumin methods to align with each other and the Provincial RIs.
- Changes to albumin methods will improve accuracy of results, and values are expected to decrease slightly compared to results from current methods.

Action Required:

- Be aware that some sites (RAH, GNH, MIS and SGH) will be switching to the Provincial RIs.
- Expect albumin values to decrease by 3 to 4 g/L (or 10%) on average at all sites.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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