

Date: October 7, 2019
To: All Zones: Physicians, Nursing Managers, Laboratory Directors and Managers
From: Alberta Public Laboratories
Re: Changes to Urine Porphobilinogen (PBG) and Urine Porphyrin Testing in Alberta

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Key Messages:

- Effective October 7, 2019, all urine PBG testing will be done by the Special Chemistry laboratory at the University of Alberta Hospital in Edmonton and all urine porphyrin testing will be done by the Analytical Toxicology laboratory at the Diagnostic and Scientific Centre in Calgary.
- Testing will be performed using RECIPE ClinEasy® kits for urine PBG and a lab developed assay for urine porphyrins.

Background:

- Production of BioRad kits for urine PBG and urine porphyrin testing has been discontinued.

Why this is important:

- In Edmonton and North Zones, test name has changed from urine porphyrins screen to urine porphyrins (quantitative).
- Collection requirements and reporting has changed to meet local and referral lab requirements.

Test	Sample Type	Volume	Handling	Reference Intervals
Urine PBG	Random urine		Protect from light. Refrigerate immediately. Freeze within 48h.	<1.7µmol/mmol creatinine
Urine porphyrins	24h urine	Mix and aliquot (2x10mL)	Protect from light. Refrigerate during collection. Preserve with 5g sodium carbonate OR freeze aliquot immediately.	Uroporphyrin <36nmol/24h Coproporphyrin 24-190nmol/24h

- Random urine porphyrins may be collected for children <16 years old, however no reference interval is available at this time.
- Instead of total urine porphyrins, the report will provide urine uroporphyrin and urine coproporphyrin results in nmol/24h. A more detailed urine porphyrin profile for elevated urine porphyrins may be requested through consultation with the clinical biochemist.

Action Required:

- Request urine PBG or urine porphyrins on the provincial community requisition in the additional tests section and provide clinical information.
- Specimens must be received frozen and protected from light or tests will be canceled.
- Best practice guidelines recommend sample collection preferably when the patient has symptoms.

Additional Information:

- Alberta Health Services and Calgary Laboratory Services Test Directories
- Client Response (UAH) (780) 407-7484
- Laboratory Information Centre (APL-Calgary) (403)-770-3600

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Kareena Schnabl, Clinical Biochemist, Alberta Public Laboratories North 780-407-3186
- Dr. Jessica Boyd, Clinical Biochemist, Alberta Public Laboratories South 403-770-3549

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

- Dr. Michael Mengel, Medical Director, North Sector
- Dr. Hossein Sadrzadeh, Section Chief, Clinical Biochemistry, South Sector
- Dr. Leland Baskin, Associate Medical Director, South Sector