



Date: June 29, 2020
To: All Zones
From: Genetics and Genomics, North
Re: Discontinuation of Fecal Reducing Sugar and Fecal Sugar ID Testing

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Effective immediately, Fecal Reducing Substances and Fecal Sugar ID will no longer be performed in the Newborn Metabolic Screening/Biochemical Genetics (NMS/BG) laboratory at the University of Alberta Hospital in Edmonton.
- A similar test, Reducing Substances in stool, is available with restriction at the Rapid Response Laboratory at Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary. This testing is for liquid/semi-solid specimens from pediatric/neonatal inpatients or pediatric/neonatal gastroenterology outpatients only. Orders for any other specimen or patient type will be automatically cancelled unless approval is obtained in advance from the Clinical Biochemist at Alberta Children's Hospital.

Why this is important:

- Fecal Sugar ID is discontinued.
- All Alberta requests for Fecal Reducing Substances that meet patient type or testing criteria or approval may be sent to Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary.

Action Required:

- When ordering Reducing Substances in stool, please refer to the APL Test Directory page for [Reducing Substances, Stool – Calgary Zone \(CLS\)](#).
- Contact Clinical Biochemist (Dr. Lawrence de Koning, 403-955-2277) in advance if patient type does not qualify.
- Liquid or semi-solid specimens must be delivered to the laboratory frozen or on ice and submitted with a paper copy of the requisition. Send directly to Calgary if possible.
- If results are not visible in Epic, please check Netcare

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Ross Ridsdale, Biochemical Geneticist, Newborn Metabolic Screening/Biochemical Genetics, Edmonton: 780-407-4570
- Dr. Lawrence de Koning, Clinical Biochemist, Alberta Children's Hospital, Calgary: 403-955-2277

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Dennis Bulman, Medical/Scientific Director, Genetics & Genomics, Alberta Precision Laboratories
Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer (Interim), Alberta Precision Laboratories