

**Date:** December 19, 2014  
**To:** North, Central, and Edmonton Zones  
**From:** Genetic Laboratory Services, AHS Laboratory Services  
**Re:** Plasma Carnitine Testing

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### Key Messages:

- The University of Alberta Hospital (UAH) Biochemical Genetics Laboratory will temporarily no longer be performing plasma carnitine testing until further notice.

### Why this is important:

- Effective immediately, all plasma carnitine testing (total and free carnitine) will be referred to Alberta Children's Hospital (ACH) in Calgary. Reports will come directly from ACH.

### Action Required:

- Continue to send samples to UAH because UAH will ship all samples to ACH for tracking and reporting purposes.
- For AHS Edmonton Zone laboratories, plasma carnitine collection and specimen handling information is now available in the CROT database.
- All other collection locations please refer to CLS Guide to Lab Services.
- The preferred sample is plasma but serum will be accepted. Sample type must be indicated on the aliquot tube. If the sample type is not indicated it will be rejected. The sample type influences the interpretation of the results.
- Sodium Heparin and Lithium Heparin tubes are acceptable. DO NOT collect in GEL tubes.
- Minimum volume is 2 mL or 0.5mL whole blood for babies
- Please send original requisition and provide all of the patient history.

### Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Kareena Schnabl, Clinical Biochemist, UAH at 780-407-3186  
([Kareena.Schnabl@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Kareena.Schnabl@albertahealthservices.ca))
- Angie Battochio, Biochemical Genetics Supervisor, UAH at: 780-407-4399  
([Angie.Battochio@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Angie.Battochio@albertahealthservices.ca))

### This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

**Dr Martin Somerville, Medical Scientific Director, Genetic Laboratory Services, and  
Dr James Wesenberg, Provincial Medical Scientific Director, Laboratory Services**