

Date: July 15, 2019
To: North Zone - Beaverlodge, Valleyview, Lac La Biche and Athabasca Physicians, Nursing and Laboratory Supervisor
From: Alberta Public Laboratories (APL)
Re: On site C - reactive protein (CRP) Testing at various sites

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Key Message:

- Effective **30 July 2019**, on site CRP testing will be implemented at the following hospital laboratories for both pediatric and adult patients: **Beaverlodge, Valleyview, Athabasca and Lac La Biche**.
- The new test code for Lac La Biche and Athabasca is CRP1.
- The new test code for Beaverlodge and Valleyview is CRP.

Why this is important:

C - reactive protein is considered the best single test because:

- CRP shows a rapid response to infection and inflammation and correlates well with the severity of inflammation. It increases within an hour of stimulus and returns rapidly to normal following resolution/therapy.
- Alberta Public Laboratory Services has recommended CRP instead of ESR when investigating inflammation/infection¹

CRP levels correlate well with the severity of inflammation¹

CRP(mg/L)	
10-40*	Mild inflammation, viral or bacterial infection
40-90*	Moderate inflammation, viral or bacterial infection
>90*	Marked inflammation, severe bacterial infection, vasculitis, severe arthritis

*Estimated concentrations inferred from literature values

Action Required:

- Effective 30 July 2019 discontinue sending CRP testing to referral laboratory.

References:

1. AHS Laboratory Report. April 2013. "C-Reactive Protein (CRP). The Best Lab Test for Inflammation/ Infection."

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Mireille Kattar, North Zone Consultant Pathologist at 780.407.3373.

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Interim Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, Alberta Public Laboratories (APL)