

**Date:** March 11, 2019  
**To:** All Edmonton Zone Clinicians  
**From:** Alberta Public Laboratories (APL)  
**Re:** Spun Appearance in Non-CSF Body Fluid Samples Will No Longer Be Reported

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**PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE**

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**Key Message:**

- Effective March 11, 2019 the spun appearance of non-CSF body fluid samples will no longer be reported.
- This includes pleural, peritoneal, pericardial and synovial fluids.
- The gross appearance of all fluids prior to spinning (centrifugation) will still be reported.
- Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) spun and unspun appearance will still be reported.

**Why this is important:**

- Other zones in the province do not report spun appearance of non-CSF body fluids and this result is not being built into the new Epic information system. The Edmonton Zone is aligning with provincial laboratory practice to facilitate the transition to Epic.
- The spun appearance of serous fluids can occasionally be useful for distinguishing chylous/pseudochylous samples from purulent samples. However other assays are available for making this distinction, specifically fluid Triglyceride and fluid Chylomicron tests.

**Action Required:**

- Please order fluid Triglyceride and fluid Chylomicron tests on non-CSF fluids if chylous/pseudochylous fluids are suspected

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

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

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