

<b>DATE:</b>	17 February 2026
<b>TO:</b>	Healthcare staff at Edmonton Zone Suburban Hospitals
<b>FROM:</b>	Clinical Biochemistry, Edmonton Zone
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Changes to Sample Transport for Ammonia Testing</b>

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### Key Message

- Effective 19 February 2026, if ammonia is ordered at an acute care site that does not perform testing onsite, samples will be frozen and sent on scheduled couriers. This is a change from being automatically sent by stat transportation.
- Impacted sites:
  - Cross Cancer Institute
  - Devon General Hospital
  - East Edmonton Health Centre
  - Fort Saskatchewan Community Hospital
  - Northeast Health Centre
  - Redwater Health Centre
  - Strathcona Community Hospital
- Ammonia is on the Acute Care Stat List ([PX26-02.130 Acute Care Facility Stat Testing List](#)), and when required stat transportation can be accessed by contacting the laboratory.

### Background

- Currently in the Edmonton Zone, if ammonia is collected at an acute care site that does not have testing onsite, the sample is automatically sent by stat transportation. This process was put in place to ensure sample tested within stability as ammonia concentration can increase in samples over time due to metabolism.
- With changes in collection tube and methodology in 2022, stability in frozen samples supports transitioning to sending samples frozen with scheduled transportation.
- This change aligns with processing and transportation for ammonia provincially.

### How this will impact you

- Turnaround time for ammonia will increase as samples will be sent by scheduled transportation.

### Action Required

- Be aware of this change. If results for ammonia are required stat at the impacted sites, contact the laboratory to request stat transportation.

**Effective 19 February 2026**

### Questions/Concerns

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### Approved by

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