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Laboratory Bulletin

DATE:	30 March 2026
TO:	Physicians, Nurses, and Healthcare Providers in Central, Edmonton, and North Zones
FROM:	Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Labs (APL)
RE:	**Changes to the Performing Lab and Methodology for Anti-streptolysin O (ASO) Measurement**

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Key Message

- Effective **March 31, 2026**, anti-streptolysin (ASO) testing will no longer be performed at Edmonton Base Lab (EBL).
- ASO test orders from Central, Edmonton, and North Zones will be routed to the Calgary Hub Laboratory at the Diagnostic and Scientific Centre (DSC) to be performed on the Roche Diagnostics ASO assay.
- There are no changes to ASO testing for Calgary or South Zones.

Background

- Anti-streptolysin O titre is used to assess immune system response to group A streptococcal infection (GAS) and related complications such as acute rheumatic fever and glomerulonephritis.
- The reagent used for ASO measurement at EBL on the Siemens Atellica is being decommissioned by the manufacturer, and the new formulation did not meet our method verification requirements.
- As such, ASO testing for the province will be consolidated on the Roche Diagnostics instrumentation at the DSC.
- Due to a lack of assay standardization, ASO test results produced from the Roche Diagnostics instrumentation and Siemens Atellica differ. Results from the two assays should not be compared. In addition, the reference interval for pediatric patients also differs between the two assays.

How this will impact you

- The reference interval for ASO will change for pediatric patients:

	Age (years)	NEW effective March 31	Current
Anti-streptolysin O reference interval	0 to <6	<148 IU/mL	<101 IU/mL
	≥6 to <18	<536 IU/mL	<251 IU/mL

- ASO testing for Central, Edmonton, and North Zones will now route to DSC instead of EBL.
- There are no changes to how ASO is ordered.

Action Required

- Be aware of the change in the pediatric reference interval for ASO tests ordered in Central, Edmonton, and North Zones.
- Rebaseline measurement is recommended for patients in the affected Zones who are currently being monitored for antibody titer levels.

Questions/Concerns

- Dr. Ridwan Ibrahim, DSC Clinical Chemist, 403-770-3505, Ridwan.Ibrahim@albertaprecisionlabs.ca
- Edmonton Base Lab Clinical Chemist Team, 825-394-1816, apl.clinicalchemists@aplabs.ca

Approved by

- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, APL.