

<b>DATE:</b>	30 March 2026
<b>TO:</b>	Edmonton, North, and Central Zones (sites that refer testing to Edmonton) All Physicians, Nurses, and Managers
<b>FROM:</b>	Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Changes to the Performing Lab for Serum Beta 2 Microglobulin (B2M)</b>

---

## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

---

### Key Message

- Effective **March 31, 2026**, serum B2M testing will no longer be performed at the University of Alberta Hospital (UAH) Laboratory.
- Serum B2M will be routed to Edmonton Base Lab (EBL) to be performed on the Siemens Atellica CH B2M assay.
- This change does not impact serum B2M testing for Calgary or South zones.

### Background

- Serum B2M is a clinical marker used to assess prognosis and response to treatment in hematologic malignancies such as multiple myeloma, and to evaluate kidney dysfunction.
  - It can also be elevated in conditions that reflect immune system activation such as chronic infections, autoimmune disease, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and cytomegalovirus (CMV) [1].
- The Siemens BNII Nephelometer at UAH will no longer be in-use, requiring the tests currently run on this instrument to be run on a different instrument.
- The Siemens Atellica CH serum B2M assay is an immunoturbidimetric method and the clinical reportable range is 0.5 - 36 mg/L. Results greater than 36 mg/L will be reported as >36 mg/L.
- The UAH immunonephelometric assay is different from the EBL immunoturbidimetric assay; therefore, results from the two assays should not be compared.

### How this will impact you

- Be aware that serum B2M will no longer be performed at UAH.
- Be aware of the narrower reportable range for the EBL serum B2M assay.
- There are no changes to serum B2M reference interval or how the test is ordered.

### Action Required

- Be aware of the change to serum B2M test method and performing lab (EBL).
- Rebaseline measurement is recommended for patients who are currently being monitored.

### Questions/Concerns

- Edmonton Base Lab Clinical Chemist Team, 825-394-1816, [apl.clinicalchemists@aplabs.ca](mailto:apl.clinicalchemists@aplabs.ca)

### Approved by

- Dr. Michael Mengel, Medical Director, North Sector, APL
- Dr. Mathew Estey, Medical Lead, Clinical Biochemistry, APL

### Reference

1. Bethea M and Forman DT. (May-June 1990). Beta 2-microglobulin: its significance and clinical usefulness. Ann Clin Lab Sci. 20(3):163-8. PMID 2188562