

DATE:	25 May 2026
TO:	All Healthcare Providers
FROM:	Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Labs
RE:	Change in Performing Laboratory for Thiocyanate Testing

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Key Message

- Effective May 26th 2026, thiocyanate testing will no longer be performed within Alberta Precision Labs (APL). This test will now be available through the external sendout test as a Miscellaneous External Test ([External Send Out Tests | Alberta Precision Laboratories](#)).

Background

- Thiocyanate levels are indicated for measuring thiocyanate toxicity in patients on long-term nitroprusside therapy and with hepatic or renal dysfunction. It is not intended for monitoring occupational health surveillance due to cyanide exposure.
- Thiocyanate testing has historically been performed at the Analytical Toxicology Lab, Diagnostic and Scientific Centre in Calgary. Due to low testing frequency and aging instrumentation this test will be discontinued within APL.

How this will impact you

- Be aware that thiocyanate testing will now be ordered through the External Send Out process. All requests are reviewed; approved tests will be sent to the referral lab. Current sample and testing information at the referral lab are:
 - Serum to be collected in a red top tube
 - Toxic level cutoff: >1.7 mmol/L (APL is currently >1.4 mmol/L)
 - Turnaround time of 6 days from receipt
- Test result information for the external sendout will be available through Netcare and Connect Care. Results could be delivered by mail or fax.

Action Required

- Thiocyanate levels must be ordered as a Miscellaneous External Test [LAB000E].

Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

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