



Date: March 9, 2020
To: All Zones, Medical Genetics Clinics and Laboratories, Metabolic Clinics, Physicians / Nurses / Managers / Laboratory Directors
From: Genetics and Genomics
Re: Galactose-1-phosphate quantitation

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Effective **January 6th, 2020**, the Genetics and Genomics Biochemical Genetics Laboratories (both Edmonton (North) and Calgary (South)) samples for **galactose-1-phosphate quantitation** (for the purpose of **clinical monitoring of confirmed galactosemia patients**) are being sent to a new out-of-province referral laboratory, the London Health Sciences Center Biochemical Genetics Laboratory in London, Ontario. This change is due to the previous out-of-province referral laboratory (i.e., the Diagnostic Services of Manitoba Clinical Biochemistry and Genetics Lab in Winnipeg, Manitoba) having discontinued this test.
- The change in referral laboratory has resulted in:
 - 1) A change in **specimen type requirement** to a lavender (K₂EDTA anticoagulant) collection tube from the previous green top (heparin anticoagulant) collection tube.
 - 2) A change to **specimen handling**: A red blood cell preparation must be performed by the Genetics and Genomics BGLs on these samples prior to send-out. Therefore, upon collection, samples must be kept on ice (NOT FROZEN), and arrive at either BGL no later than **12h00 pm** on the day of collection.

Why this is important:

- All healthcare providers that collect specimens need to be aware that the **specimen type** and **sample handling** requirements for this test have changed, in order to:
 - Prevent test cancellation due to inappropriate specimen collection and handling
 - Avoid unnecessary repeat collections, potentially leading to patient harm
 - Ensure that viable specimens can be referred out for testing

Action Required:

- Edmonton Zone collection sites should review the <file:///chfs02/RegLabClinicalSendOuts/Galactose-1-%20Phosphate.doc>
- Calgary Zone collection sites should review the Alberta Precision Laboratories Test Directory for *Galactose 1-Phosphate and Galactose, Quantitative (G&G South ACH) – Genetics and Genomics*.
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/webapps/labservices/indexAPL.asp?id=7965&tests=&zoneid=1&details=true>

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Newborn Metabolic Screening and Biochemical Genetics Laboratory 1-780-407-8820.
- Alberta Children's Hospital Biochemical Genetics Laboratory 1-403-955-7379.

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Dennis Bulman, Medical/Scientific Director, Genetics and Genomics, APL
Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer (Interim), APL