

Empowering our Tomorrow: Introducing the 2021 LifeLabs Community Report

LifeLabs is excited to announce the launch of our 2021 Community Report: Empowering Our Tomorrow. 2021 was a transformative year for our organization, marked by innovation, agility and a focus on building a new, better normal in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As Canadians continue to adjust to a post-pandemic reality, LifeLabs is looking to the future, fueled by the momentum of the innovation, agility and expertise we've demonstrated throughout the past two years.

From using drones to fly healthcare supplies to remote communities in British Columbia, to our support in public health initiatives, all while making strides forward in quality and accessibility of our usual diagnostic services and patient care, we've shown that the lessons we've learned can translate into a brighter, healthier future for Canadians – in more ways than one.

Explore Empowering our Future: LifeLabs' 2021 Community Report [here](#) and learn more about how we're:

- Empowering our customers;
- Recognizing and caring for our employees;
- Celebrating our partnerships;
- Advancing our DE&I initiatives;
- And respecting our environment through sustainable initiatives.

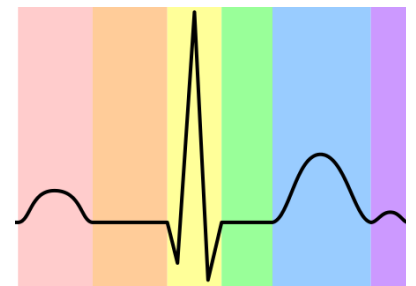


LifeLabs Cardiac Testing

Donna MacAlister, Cardiology Manager

General Policy for Booking Cardiac Appointments

If a patient is not able to get an appointment at their preferred location in a timely manner, the appointment desk will be offering the next available appointment at another LifeLabs location. Please note that only Holter testing and Ambulatory blood pressure monitoring require appointments, while EKGs do not.



LifeLabs Cardiac testing over the Holidays

Please be aware that due to several statutory holidays over the Christmas – New Year's break, there may be longer than usual wait times for appointments and a delayed turnover time of cardiology testing results; i.e. Holter Scans. Any patient requiring urgent results should be referred elsewhere.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Donna MacAlister, Cardiology Manager at 604-880-5104.

LifeLabs to offer electronic reports of LifeLabs Genetics Panorama™ test results

Kate Gardiner MS, CGC, CCGC. Senior Manager, Clinical Services

We're pleased to share that we will be offering electronic reports of LifeLabs Genetics Panorama™ Non-Invasive Prenatal Screening Test (NIPT) results in B.C. in early 2023. LifeLabs has been offering Panorama NIPT since 2013 using fax reporting.

Panorama™ NIPT is a highly accurate prenatal screen that uses a blood sample from the mother as early as 9 weeks into pregnancy to analyze DNA from the placenta for certain chromosome conditions that could affect the baby's development. It detects specific whole extra or missing chromosomes, fetal sex, microdeletions (loss of specific small regions of chromosomes), and whether twins are identical or fraternal (zygosity). For example, for Down Syndrome, the detection rate is >99% and positive predictive value is 95%. For Trisomy 18, the detection rate is >99% and positive predictive value is 91%.

Starting January 30, 2023, the implementation of electronic reporting will allow providers to receive test results electronically rather than through manual faxes. Initially, we will only be providing electronic reports for Panorama™ NIPT results in the LifeLabs Genetics portfolio, but we expect to expand the availability of electronic reports for other Genetics' tests in the future.

Panorama™ tests that are currently eligible for electronic reporting include:

- Panorama™ Basic Test (assessing chromosomes 13, 18, 21, X and Y and triploidy, with an option to add on fetal sex)
- Panorama™ Basic Test + 22q11.2 deletion syndrome
- Panorama™ Basic Test + microdeletion extended panel (analyzing 22q11.2, 1p36, Cri-Du-Chat, Prader-Willi and Angelman syndromes)
- Key points to note:
- As a health care provider, you can subscribe to LifeLabs' Launchpad service and opt-in to receive electronic reporting. Or, if you are already subscribed to an external EMR provider that is integrated with LifeLabs, you will be able to access Panorama™ NIPT reports through that EMR system.
- Patients who are registered to receive test results through MyCareCompass will be able to access Panorama™ reports within 5 calendar days of the report being released to the ordering health care provider. This is to ensure the health care provider has enough time to review and interpret the report before consulting with the patient.
- If you have elected to receive reports by fax and would prefer to continue as is, we will be retaining the faxing process. The clinical process for reporting results will remain the same as well.

We hope the electronic reporting process will provide you and your patients with an improved experience in managing health information, and we look forward to continuing to serve you in the future.



STAT and Urgent Test Requests

Julie Kelly, Quality and Regulatory Affairs



LifeLabs provides prioritized processing for specimens designated as STAT or Urgent. When a requisition indicates STAT or urgent, testing will be expedited, and results will be reported and called to the ordering practitioner within 6 hours of arrival of the specimen in the laboratory.

Marking a requisition with “STAT” or “Urgent” will result in STAT/Urgent test processing and result notification for applicable tests.

Please tell patients verbally that testing is urgent or indicate this using the specific area of the requisition marked “Instructions to Patients”. Avoid writing “urgent” or “STAT” in the “Diagnosis” or “Other Tests” sections to help avoid unnecessary STAT processing and result notification.

Not all tests are available as a STAT request; phone Customer Information Centre (604-431-7206 or 1-800-431-7206) for more detail.

Please see [Laboratory Tests Results Turn Around Time \(TAT\) - British Columbia](#) - British Columbia for additional information.

Updated Chemistry Analyzers at Burnaby Laboratory

Dr. Romina Reyes, MD, FRCPC, BC Medical Director

In November, extensive work was performed to replace Roche Cobas and Abbott Architect analyzers with the Abbott Alinity testing platform as part of a national alignment strategy. The testing performed on these analyzers includes clinical chemistry, immunoassays, and infectious disease (serology) assays.

Method validations were performed for all the impacted assays at LifeLabs to ensure the assays meet clinical requirements. The test results on the new analyzers compare well with our previous analyzers. For 3 months from the time of implementation, temporary notification will be included with all reports indicating a change in testing platform and highlighting any other significant changes. Please note that minor updates to interpretive comments for some of the tests will also be implemented to align with current clinical guidelines and improve interpretation of laboratory results.

The tables on the following pages outline the test changes (by individual test).

For any clinical or technical questions regarding this change please contact the following LifeLabs biochemists:

- **William E. Schreiber**, MD , Clinical Director of Chemistry, Burnaby, BC. Phone: 604-412-4483; email: William.Schreiber@LifeLabs.com
- **Joanna Jung**, PhD, Clinical Biochemist, Victoria, BC. Phone: 604-507-5104; email: joanna.jung@lifelabs.com

Table 1: Changes to Clinical chemistry and therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) tests that have been transferred to the Abbott Alinity C platform in November 2022

CHEMISTRY TESTS	
Albumin (Urine)	Reported values may show up to 15% increase compared to the previous method. Reference intervals are unchanged.
Alpha-1-Antitrypsin	Reported values may show up to 12% increase compared to the previous method. Reference intervals are unchanged.
Aspartate Aminotransferase	Reported values may show up to 14% increase compared to the previous method. Reference intervals are unchanged.
Bicarbonate	Test name changed to Carbon Dioxide to align with other laboratories in BC.
Bilirubin, total	Reported values may show up to 13% increase compared to the previous platform. Reference intervals are unchanged.
Calcium (Urine)	Reported values may show up to 10% decrease compared to the previous method. Reference interval is unchanged.
Ceruloplasmin	Reference intervals has been adjusted as a result of the transfer to the new Abbott Alinity c platform.
Chloride (Serum)	Reference interval has been adjusted as a result of the transfer to the new Abbott Alinity c platform.
GGT	Reference intervals have been adjusted as a result of the transfer to the new Abbott Alinity c platform.
Haptoglobin	Reference interval has been adjusted as a result of the transfer to the new Abbott Alinity c platform.
Lipase	Reported values may show up to 13% decrease compared to the previous platform. Reference intervals are unchanged.
Lp(a)	Units, decision limits, and interpretive comments have been updated to reflect current BC guidelines, Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists (CSCC) recommendations, and 2021 Canadian Cardiovascular Society guidelines. Test will now be performed at Victoria and Burnaby Reference Laboratories.
RF (Rheumatoid Factor) (Serum)	Reported values may show an average of 29% increase compared to the previous method. Reference intervals have been adjusted.
Urine Total Protein	Reported values may show up to +15% increase compared to the previous method. Reference intervals are unchanged.
THERAPEUTIC DRUG MONITORING	
Carbamazepine	Reported values may show a 5 umol/L increase compared to the previous method. Therapeutic range is unchanged.
Digoxin	Reported values may show a 0.2 nmol/L increase compared to the previous method. Therapeutic range is unchanged.
Lithium	Therapeutic ranges have been updated to reflect recent guidelines.
Phenobarbital	Therapeutic ranges for adults and children have been combined into a single range.
Phenytoin	Therapeutic range has been updated to reflect recent guidelines. There is no separate range for patients ≤ 3 months of age.
Valproic acid	Therapeutic range has been updated to reflect recent guidelines.

Table 2: Clinical chemistry tests that have been transferred to the Abbott Alinity C platform in November 2022 with NO associated test changes

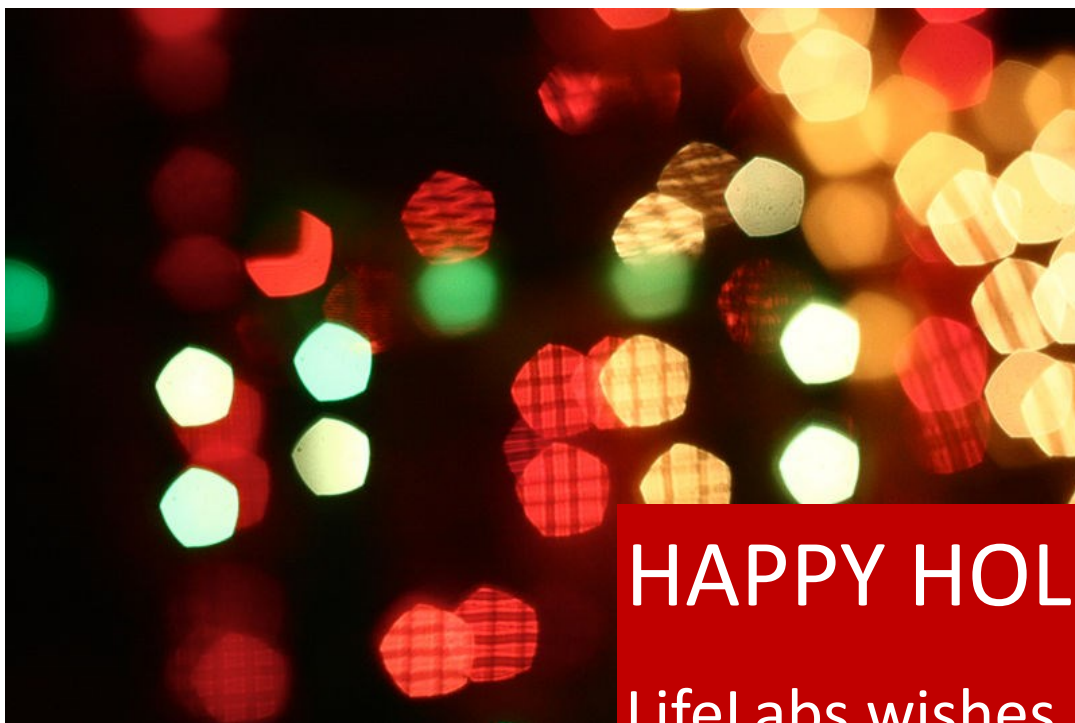
- Alanine Aminotransferase
- Albumin (Serum)
- Alkaline phosphatase
- Amylase (serum, urine),
- Apolipoprotein A1
- Apolipoprotein B
- Bilirubin direct
- C3, C4
- Calcium (serum)
- Chloride (urine)
- Cholesterol
- C-reactive protein
- Creatinine (serum, urine)
- Creatinine Kinase
- Glucose (serum)
- Glucose (plasma)
- Haptoglobin
- HDL-C
- IgG, IgA, IgM
- Iron
- Lactate
- LDH
- Magnesium
- Phosphorus
- Potassium (serum)
- Potassium (plasma)
- Sodium (urine, serum)
- Theophylline
- Total Protein
- Transferrin
- Triglycerides
- Urea,
- Uric Acid

Table 3: Immunoassay tests that have been transferred to the Abbott Alinity I platform in November 2022

NT-proBNP	LifeLabs will begin testing at both Victoria and Burnaby locations. This test will be offered under the same ordering guidelines as BNP.
BNP	Interpretive comments have been updated to reflect current BC guidelines on chronic heart failure.
Cortisol	Reference intervals have been changed to reflect recent practice guidelines.
Estradiol	Reference intervals have changed. Values for patients ≤ 18 years old were adopted from CALIPER studies. Values for patients > 18 years old were adopted from Abbott Diagnostics package insert and verified by patient correlation studies. Reference intervals for Tanner stages have been removed. Pediatric samples will now be tested at LifeLabs
FSH	Age and gender specific reference intervals are provided. Reference intervals for Tanner stages have been removed.
LH	Age and gender specific reference intervals are provided. Reference intervals for Tanner stages have been removed
Progesterone	Change in reporting of reference intervals – low limit of reference interval has been removed for some age ranges to align the reporting for all age ranges.
Prolactin	Age and gender specific reference intervals are provided. Reference intervals for Tanner stages have been removed.
Vit D	Test will now be performed at Victoria and Burnaby laboratories.

Table 4: Infectious disease serology tests that have been transferred to the Abbott Alinity I platform in November 2022

Anti-HAV IgM	No Change
Anti-HBc Total	No Change
HBeAg	No Change
Anti-HBs	Compared to the previous platform, antibody titers may vary due to differences in assay standardization. There is no impact on test interpretation - antibody titers ≥ 10 IU/L continue to indicate immunity towards Hepatitis B infection.
HBsAg	No Change
Anti-HCV	No Change



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

LifeLabs wishes all of our healthcare providers a happy holiday season!