

## *Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum*

**To:** Physicians and Health Service Directors, Central Zone  
Nova Scotia Laboratories

**From:** Dr. Amy Lou Clinical Biochemist, Division of Clinical Chemistry  
Mrs. Catherine Lambert, Manager Community Based Laboratories  
Ms. Cindy Andrews, Manager Core Laboratory

**Date:** June 5, 2019

**Subject:** **Changes to Specimen Collection and Processing of Ammonia in the Central Zone**

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Effective July 8, 2019 Ammonia collection in the Central Zone will change to improve the stability of the specimen.

**Specimen collection requirements:**

Specimens collected in a 4.0 ml lavender top EDTA tube, filled to capacity, placed on ice and delivered to the laboratory within 20 minutes.

**Reference range:**

Reference range remains at 18-72 umol/L for all age groups.

**Nova Scotia Laboratories processing requirements:**

Centrifuge and aliquot plasma within 30 min of collection. Plasma aliquot is stable for 2 hours at 4°C or 3 weeks if frozen.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Amy Lou at (902)473-1528