



# Laboratory Medicine Bulletin

## Discontinuation of amylase testing at St. Paul's Hospital

<b>Effective date</b>	September 28, 2022
<b>Change</b>	Discontinuation of amylase testing at St. Paul's Hospital.
<b>Alternate test available</b>	Lipase testing remains available at St. Paul's Hospital. In specific circumstances, if amylase testing is desired, please contact the lab.
<b>Background</b>	While both lipase and amylase have limitations with respect to the diagnosis of acute pancreatitis, lipase has greater diagnostic sensitivity as compared to amylase, and the use of a combination of both lipase and amylase does not improve diagnostic accuracy. In addition, lipase remains elevated for a longer period of time compared to amylase, resulting in a larger diagnostic window.
<b>Questions?</b>	Please contact: Dr. Mari DeMarco, PhD DABCC FCACB Clinical Chemist, Providence Health Care Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine <a href="mailto:mdemarco@providencehealth.bc.ca">mdemarco@providencehealth.bc.ca</a> Tel. 604.806.8470
<b>References</b>	Greenberg et al. Clinical practice guideline: management of acute pancreatitis. <i>Can J Surg.</i> 2016;59(2):128-140. Besselink et al. IAP/APA evidence-based guidelines for the management of acute pancreatitis. <i>Pancreatology.</i> 2013;13(4):1-15. Treacy et al. Evaluation of amylase and lipase in the diagnosis of acute pancreatitis. <i>ANZ J Surg</i> 2001;71(10):577-82. Ismail & Bhayana. Lipase or amylase for the diagnosis of acute pancreatitis? <i>Clinical Biochemistry.</i> 2017;50(18):1275-1280.