



30 Jan 2023

All Workplaces

Dear Sir/Madam,

SUSPENSION OF RED BLOOD CELL ACETYLCHOLINESTERASE (RBC AChE) MEDICAL EXAMINATION TEST REQUIREMENT FOR EXPOSURE TO ORGANOPHOSPHATE COMPOUNDS

Under the Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) (Medical Examinations) Regulations, workers who use, handle or are exposed to the liquid, fumes, or vapours of organophosphate compounds (OPs) are required to undergo pre-placement and 6-monthly periodic medical examinations conducted by Designated Workplace Doctors (DWDs). The medical examination includes a laboratory test for red blood cell acetylcholinesterase (RBC AChE).

2 The RBC AChE test requires the use of reagents produced by Roche Diagnostics Asia Pacific Pte Ltd. We have been informed by Roche that they have ceased production of the reagents in August 2022 (refer to Annex 1). We have checked and found that there are no other alternative reagents for the test. This means that the testing for RBC AChE would not be available once the existing stock of reagents runs out. Therefore, we will suspend the requirement for testing of RBC AChE with effect from **1 March 2023**.

3 We will continue to maintain the testing for butyrylcholinesterase (serum cholinesterase)¹ as part of pre-placement medical examinations, and the clinical examinations by DWD as part of the 6 monthly medical examinations for effects of OP exposure. You are still required to submit the Summary Report to MOM.

4 If poisoning or overexposure to OP is suspected, please refer the worker to the Emergency Department for further management immediately. Persons diagnosed with OP poisoning, an occupational disease, must be notified to MOM via iReport www.mom.gov.sg/ireport.

5 Copies of the Summary Report of Examinations and relevant test results should be kept for at least 5 years. Employers are to continue to keep a list of workers who are exposed to OP (a register of employees), which need not be submitted to the Ministry of Manpower.

6 Employers are also reminded to ensure that adequate control measures are in place, such as engineering control measures, safe working practices and use of appropriate personal protective equipment.

¹ Please refer to Annex 2 for the list of local laboratory providers for butyrylcholinesterase (serum cholinesterase)



7 Please contact the MOM Contact Centre at 6438 5122 or email mom_oshd@mom.gov.sg if you have any clarifications.

Yours faithfully,

Ms JAIME LIM
for COMMISSIONER FOR WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION
MINISTRY OF MANPOWER

Date of issue:	Classification:	Circular no:
30/01/2023 (Date of revision: 03 Jun 2024)	Workplace Health	MOM/OSHD/2023-01 (revised)



Annex 1 Marketing notification from ROCHE Diagnostics Asia Pacific Pte Ltd

Marketing Notification

MN-CPS-2020-044

Version 1
23-Aug-2021

Phase out of Cholinesterase Acetyl (CHE)

Instrument/System	cobas c 501 / 502
Component	Reagent

Dear Valued Customers

As we strive to provide the utmost level of service and support to you, we continually evaluate and refine our product lines to assure the support you have grown to expect. There are times when this includes the discontinuation of a product line.

The European Union (EU) regulation, the *in vitro* diagnostic regulation (IVDR) becomes effective May 2022, replacing the current *in vitro* diagnostic directive (IVDD). Given the requirements to comply with the regulation, and the substantial decrease in demand for Cholinesterase Acetyl (CHE), Roche has decided to discontinue the product.

We will be ceasing supply of HITACHI CHOLINESTERASE (CHE) (Catalogue number: 11877763216) by **end of August 2022**.

Unfortunately, there is no exact substitution of the CHE assay. We seek your understanding in sourcing for 3rd party alternative, which could be used as an open channel application in the cobas c analysers.

	Current (Phased out by end August 2022)
Product name	HITACHI CHOLINESTERASE
Catalogue number	11877763216
Test per pack	4 X 65 tests per kit

Table 1: Discontinued product

Thank you very much for your continuous support of Roche Diagnostics.

If you have other queries pertaining to this product information, please contact

- 1) Product Manager, Chen Huimin at 9831 2513 or
- 2) Our Customer Hotline at 6371 8888

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Annex 2 List of local laboratory providers for butyrylcholinesterase (serum cholinesterase)

Laboratory	Contact Details
Innoquest Diagnostics	6235 6950 6275 5501
National University Hospital (NUH) Department of Laboratory Services	6778 5171
Parkway Laboratory Services	6278 9188
ResteLab	6229 6031 6214 4220
Singapore General Hospital (SGH) Pathology Lab Services	6321 4950 6326 5353