

There are four commonly measured Type 1 diabetes auto-antibodies (autoAbs)

GAD65 (glutamic acid decarboxylase)  
mIAA (insulin Ab)  
IA-2 (Islet Antigen 2)  
ZnT8 (Zinc transporter)

One or more positive result for the 4 auto-antibodies listed below, in the presence of diabetes and an insulin requirement, points to a diagnosis of clinical (stage 3) Type 1 diabetes.

Stage 1 diabetes = 2 autoAbs & normal sugar.

Stage 2 diabetes = 2 autoAbs + dysglycemia (elevated sugar but not in diabetes range).

[Click here](#) for a flow chart designed to guide clinicians on the management of autoAb test results.

For individuals wishing to be screened for Stage 1 or Stage 2 Type 1 diabetes these autoantibodies can now be measured at no-cost courtesy of Sanofi, the manufacturer of teplizumab "Tziel" using a fingerpoke test. For more on Tziel see [this information sheet](#). Only individuals aged 8+ years of age are eligible for this free testing because teplizumab, the drug now indicated for Stage 2 Type 1 diabetes, is only approved for age 8+. For those <8 years of age free testing can be had via [trialnet](#), a Canadian charity and research organization.

To have these autoAbs measured in the conventional way through a regular LifeLabs or other laboratory, [here is a requisition](#) that your own doctor can sign. Note, in BC none of these tests is covered by MSP, and of the four tests only GAD65 is offered by Lifelabs at a private payer fee of \$232.

Find a lab & get the blood drawn (no fasting or preparation is required) and shipped. The sample(s) need to be collected correctly: here are the directions for GAD65: "Collect 1 X 3.5 mL Gold Top SST, Centrifuge, aliquot and freeze serum immediately in a pour-off tube labelled with Patient Name, PHN and Date/Time of Collection, A minimum of 0.6 mL serum is required."

Such testing is widely available in the USA; in Canada two labs providing them are listed below:

In Canada Type 1 autoAbs are available as follows:

**GAD65** testing is available through [Alberta Precision Labs](#) in Edmonton (\$63 + shipping & handling).

[Alberta Precision Labs requisition suitably annotated](#)

Contact: [Ann.Arseneau@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:Ann.Arseneau@albertaprecisionlabs.ca), +1-780-407-4439  
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4B1.06 Walter C. Mackenzie Center 8440-112 St., Edmonton, AB T6G 2B7, CA

**mIAA, IA-2 & ZnT8** are available through In Common Labs in Toronto (\$280.75 + shipping and handling). [Custom requisition for BCDiabetes](#)  
Contact [cathyandrusiak@iclabs.ca](mailto:cathyandrusiak@iclabs.ca)  
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<https://iclabs.ca>

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