

DATE:	20 January 2025
TO:	All Zones: All Physicians, Nurses, Laboratory Services Staff
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories – Cytopathology
RE:	Opening of the New Central Zone Fine Needle Aspiration Clinic

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- A **NEW** Central Zone Fine Needle Aspiration Clinic opened in Red Deer on January 1st, 2025.
- Located at the Red Deer Regional Hospital. Clinic hours are bi-weekly Mondays 1200-1600 hours.
- The clinic performs fine needle aspiration on palpable and non-palpable superficial lesions (lumps and bumps).
- To refer a patient, a Fine Needle Aspiration Clinic Patient Referral Form has been developed (see below)

Background

- This is a new service offered to Central Zone physicians and patients to assist with a wait times in the region for thyroid FNAs and offer a new service for any other “lump or “bump” that would be amenable to superficial (<3cm deep) ultrasound guided FNA by a pathologist.

How this will impact you

- Clinicians will now have the ability to book FNAs through the lab instead of Diagnostic Imaging.
- There is a chance that the patient may not meet criteria set out and will be rejected. Such examples include, not providing all the necessary information on the referral form or if the lesion is deemed too deep (>3cm) or is located too close to critical anatomical structures.
- If the patient has 2 no-shows, they will be discharged from our clinic and a new referral will need to be made.
- Please use the following patient referral requisition and patient instructions:
 - [Laboratory Fine Needle Aspiration Clinic Patient Referral Form - 22224](#)
 - [PX26-01.510 Patient Instructions Appointments FNA Clinic Central Zone](#)
 - [PX26-01.520 Fine Needle Aspiration Post Care Patient Instructions](#)

Refer to the Alberta Precision Laboratories External Website and test directory:

- [Fine Needle Aspirate Clinics & Requests | Alberta Precision Laboratories](#)
- [Alberta Precision Laboratories | Lab Services](#)

Action Required

- Follow current ordering process to obtain the NEW Laboratory Fine Needle Aspiration Clinic Patient Referral Form – 22224
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/frm-22224.pdf>



Effective January 1, 2025

Questions/Concerns

- **Central Zone:** Dr. Marcia Abbott, Cytopathology Medical Lead, Hub Lab Services, South Sector
marcia.abbott@albertaprecisionlabs.ca
- **North/Edmonton Zones:** Dr. June Hwang, Cytopathology Subspecialty Group Co-Lead, North Sector
at june.hwang@albertaprecisionlabs.ca
- **Calgary/South Zones:** Dr. Steve Gorombey, Cytopathology Subspecialty Group Co-Lead, South Sector at steve.gorombey@albertaprecisionlabs.ca
- **All other general inquiries can be directed to APL Provincial contact:** 1-877-868-6848

Approved by

- Dr. Michael Mengel, North Sector Medical Director, APL
- Dr. Kate O'Connor, South Sector Medical Director, APL