

<b>DATE:</b>	3 March 2025
<b>TO:</b>	All Zones: All Physicians, Nurses, Laboratory Services Staff
<b>FROM:</b>	Alberta Precision Laboratories
<b>RE:</b>	<b>PD-L1 Testing Reminder</b>

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## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

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### Key Message

- Pathologists should **not** order PDL1 immunohistochemistry on cases other than non-small cell lung carcinomas which fit current approved criteria for reflex testing, even if requested to do so by a clinician (see AP12-02.01.109 Reminders for Reflex Testing for details on which non-small cell lung carcinomas qualify for reflex testing).

### Background

- APL has created a pathway for these requests in which clinicians can order these biomarkers in Connect Care through the “Request for additional testing” function. Such requests are then screened by the biomarker group for key requirements such as appropriate tissue type, fixative, minimum cellularity, etc. before being ordered.
- Ordering PDL1 tests on non-lung cases by pathologists outside the biomarker group bypasses these important checks and results in testing being done which often cannot be reported due to lack of one or more prerequisites. This results in a waste of resources and may cause a delay in reporting of the result from a different specimen.

### Action Required

- Please do not order PDL1 immunohistochemistry on cases other than non-small lung cancer.
- Refer to the **Pathology Specimen Ordering and Collection Quick Start Guide** for instructions for ordering PD-L1 in Connect Care. The Quick Start Guide is accessible under AHS Connect Care resources.

**Effective      IMMEDIATELY**

### Questions/Concerns

- North/Edmonton Zones:** Dr Gilbert Bigras, [gilbert.bigras@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:gilbert.bigras@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)
- Calgary/South Zones:** Dr Martin Hyrcza, [martin.hyrcza@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:martin.hyrcza@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)
- All other general laboratory 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