

DATE:	2022 September 19
TO:	All Physicians, Nursing in South Zone
FROM:	Dr. Spencer Paulson, Medical Site Chief-Laboratory Services MHRH Dr. Krishna Narra, Medical Site Chief-Laboratory Services CRH
RE:	Anatomical Pathology Requisition (Consultation Request) – Sample Acceptance Requirements

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- The APL Anatomical Pathology Quality Assurance plan assists each laboratory in the identification of areas that can be improved upon to maximize patient safety, quality of service and patient care provided.
- As a part of this work, a standardized provincial requisition for Anatomical Pathology services was introduced in October 2017 and information was provided regarding the completion requirements when submitting tissue samples, as defined in the Laboratory Services Sample Acceptance policy - <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/lab/wf-lab-sample-acceptance-appendix-a.pdf>.
- Sample acceptance deficiencies are monitored as part of the Anatomical Pathology Laboratory's Quality Assurance Program. Deficiencies lead to delays in laboratory processing, may impact patient safety and may compromise the quality of the result. The laboratory continues to receive a high number of deficiencies in the following areas:
 - i. Samples submitted with inadequate clinical information.
 - ii. Samples submitted without the proper patient identification on the requisition, specimen containers and labels.
 - iii. Requisition deficiencies including submitting physician's full name, organ of origin, exact body site, procedure, and illegible information.

Background

- The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta **and** College of American Pathologists both require provision of relevant clinical information on the requisition.
- The Alberta Hospitals Act states "all tissues shall be accompanied by a report giving the essential details, including the patient's name, sex, age, a brief history and the circumstances under which the tissue was removed".
- Proper patient and sample identification and relevant clinical history/information is essential for the timeliness and accuracy of results, and clinical-pathological correlation for optimal diagnosis.

Action Required

- Review the "Anatomical Pathology Request Completion Aid" for requisition requirements. <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/lab/if-lab-hp-anatomical-pathology-request-completion-aid.pdf>



- Ensure that the Anatomical Pathology Requisition is completed in compliance with the Laboratory Services Sample Acceptance policy.
- Ensure that the Patient's full first and last name, PHN (or second unique identifier) and body site (Specimens Submitted/Exact sites) match **EXACTLY** on the requisition and specimen label.

Questions/Concerns

- Please direct to your designated Anatomical Pathology Department.
 - Chinook Regional Hospital
403-388-6157
 - Medicine Hat Regional Hospital
403-502-8648 ext. 1556

Approved by

- Dr. Krishna Narra, Medical Site Chief-Laboratory Services CRH
- Dr. Spencer Paulson, Medical Site Chief-Laboratory Services MHRH