

DATE:	2021 May 3
TO:	All Clinicians, Nursing, DI staff, Lab staff
FROM:	Anatomical Pathology, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	New Lymphoma Protocol for North, Central and South Zones

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Key Message

- A new, provincial Lymphoma Diagnostic Pathway has been established – implemented in hospitals in Edmonton and Calgary November 2, 2020.
- This Pathway is being implemented at Regional Hospitals in Grande Prairie, Red Deer, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat on **May 10, 2021**.
 - For cases following the Lymphoma Diagnostic Pathway: core needle biopsies will now be split by DI Staff at the time of collection for Surgical Pathology and for Flow Cytometry Testing.
 - No change to lymph node or query lymphoma cases outside of the Lymphoma Diagnostic Pathway – maintain local anatomical pathology collection/handling process.
- Collection sites/clinics/programs outside of the above hospital locations should continue to submit samples in formalin only – refer to the Laboratory Test Directory (<https://www.albertaprecisionlabs.ca/tc/Page13850.aspx>).
- This pathway aims to expedite and support symptomatic patients who are highly suspected of having lymphoma following best practice recommendations.
- The pathway moves away from excisional biopsies to a protocol that includes collection of core needle biopsies for lymphoma diagnosis.

Background

- This pathway was developed using evidence-based criteria to ensure adequate sample and diagnostic work-up of core needle biopsies. This includes standard needle core size, number of specimen cores and total length of cores.
- The pathway aims to improve patient experience, improve symptom management and time to diagnosis as well as reduce hospitalization related to diagnosis.

Action Required

- For cases following the Lymphoma Diagnostic Pathway - See **Client Resource – Lymphoma Protocol** for submission guidelines – refer to the Laboratory Test Directory/Lymphoma page: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/webapps/labservices/indexAPL.asp?id=8781&tests=&zoneid=1&details=true>

Effective May 10, 2021



Questions/Concerns

North Sector: North and Edmonton Zones:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Jean Deschenes, Alberta Precision Laboratories, Edmonton, Pathologist 780-432-8453 (Jean.Deschenes@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)• Robin Stocks, Edmonton Zone AP Quality Tech II, Alberta Precision Laboratories, Robin.Stocks@albertaprecisionlabs.ca
South Sector: Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Calgary Zones:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Meer-Taher Shabani-Rad, Alberta Precision Laboratories, Calgary, Pathologist, 403-944-4754, Meer-Taher.Shabani-Rad@albertaprecisionlabs.ca• Lorrie Pacheco, Calgary Zone AP Quality Tech II, Alberta Precision Laboratories, Lorrie.Pacheco@albertaprecisionlabs.ca
OR
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact your designated Regional Hospital Anatomical Pathology Department

Approved by

- Dr. Judith Hugh, Section Chief Anatomic Pathology, Alberta Precision Laboratories, North Sector
- Dr. Ranjit Waghray, Section Chief Anatomic Pathology, Alberta Precision Laboratories, South Sector