



**Date:** November 2, 2020  
**To:** Edmonton Zone, North Zone Operating Room Surgeons  
**From:** Anatomic Pathology – Edmonton Zone, North Sector  
**Re:** North Sector Standardization of Breast Resection Inking

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**Key Message:**

- Inking of breast resection specimens has been standardized across Edmonton and the rest of the North Sector. A 6-color inking scheme will be used.
- As of November 01, 2020, all Surgeons who ink their own breast resection specimens must also follow the standardized inking code.
- As of November 01, 2020, all breast resection cases must be inked using the Cancer Diagnostics brand of tissue marking dye.

**Why this is important:**

- Standardization of inking assists Pathologists with the interpretation and sign-out of breast resection cases.
- Ink quality between brands varies, and after a study was undertaken, the Cancer Diagnostics brand was selected by Pathologists for use.

**Action Required:**

- Surgeons inking their own breast resection specimens must follow the 6-color standardized ink scheme below:

Margin	Ink Color
Anterior	Red
Inferior	Green
Lateral	Yellow
Medial	Orange
Posterior	Black
Superior	Blue

- Please contact the laboratory at your site for further information and for ink ordering information if required.

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

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**This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:**

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