

DATE:	2022 July 11
TO:	Oncologists, Province Wide
FROM:	Edmonton Zone Immunohistochemistry Laboratory, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	PD-L1 IHC Testing for Upper GI Cancer Available in Alberta

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- PD-L1 biomarker immunohistochemistry (IHC) testing on advanced or metastatic gastric adenocarcinoma, gastroesophageal junction adenocarcinoma or esophageal adenocarcinoma is available in Alberta on July 4, 2022.
- The pharmaceutical company Bristol Myers Squibb has provided compassionate funding for PD-L1 PharmDx 28-8 Upper GI testing.
- Samples must be formalin fixed. A 12-72hr fixation time is most ideal for testing.
- Decalcified tissue is not recommended for use, as false negative staining could be seen.
- Request for testing by Oncologists only.

Background

- PD-L1 IHC PharmDx 28-8 is indicated as an aid in improving overall survival in patients with upper GI cancers treated with nivolumab as per the CheckMate-649 clinical trial.
- The sample will be simultaneously tested for HER2/neu amplification and if positive, a targeted therapy is usually favored over immune checkpoint inhibitor.

Action Required

- Edmonton: Requests for testing are to be forwarded to Edmonton Zone IHC Lab. Fax: 780-429-2819
- Calgary: Requests for testing are to be forwarded to the Consult Desk. Fax: 403-944-4748

Effective July 4, 2022

Questions/Concerns

- *Calgary:* Dr. Martin Hyrcza Martin.Hyrcza@albertaprecisionlabs.ca 403-944-4759
- *Edmonton:* Dr. Gilbert Bigras Gilbert.Bigras@albertaprecisionlabs.ca 780-432-8445

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by

- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, Alberta Precision Laboratories