



Date: November 16, 2020
To: Medical and Surgical Oncologists, Edmonton and Calgary Zones
From: Shelley Rawlake, Operational Director, Molecular Pathology Program
Re: Project ACTT (Access to Cancer Testing and Treatment in response to COVID-19) sponsored by Canexia Health and AstraZeneca Canada

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Molecular Pathology Program of APL remains committed to supporting patient access to innovative testing and clinical trials where possible. However, non-standard of care testing is regarded as “clinical trial / research” for administrative, operational, and financial purposes, and thus must be fully funded by the sponsor.

Why this is important:

- The proposal to test circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) using liquid biopsy by Canexia Health and AstraZeneca for initial diagnosis in patients with possible metastatic lung, breast and colorectal carcinoma is regarded as “clinical trial” and does not qualify for support from operational funds allocated for this fiscal year. Furthermore, there is no clarity of how patient testing will proceed after March 2021 when this project concludes.
- Due to lack of full funding for this testing, including specimen collection and logistics, from the sponsors, we unfortunately cannot proceed with this research study/project.
- Of note, in the absence of an agreement between APL and Canexia Health, APL cannot be held responsible for either the quality of testing or tracking of results for any patient sample sent to Canexia Health from Alberta.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Iyare Izevbaye Scientific Lead, Molecular Pathology, North Zone, Iyare.izevbaye@aplabs.ca
- Dr. Faisal Khan Scientific Lead, Molecular Pathology, South Zone, Faisal.Khan@aplabs.ca
- Dr. Imran Mirza, Medical/Scientific Director, Molecular Pathology Program, Imran.Mirza@aplabs.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

- Dr. Imran Mirza, Provincial Medical Lead – Molecular Pathology Program, Alberta Precision Laboratories
- Dr. Carolyn O’Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer (Interim), Alberta Precision Laboratories