

<b>DATE:</b>	8 January 2024
<b>TO:</b>	All Physicians, Nursing, Laboratory Staff
<b>FROM:</b>	Anatomical Pathology, Alberta Precision Laboratory
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Revised Client Resource Autopsy Requests Guideline</b>

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## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

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### Key Message

- The Client Resource Autopsy Requests guideline has been revised to provide further information for handling perinatal cases: [Client Resource - Autopsy Requests Guideline \(labqms.com\)](http://labqms.com)

### Action Required

- Please follow the recommendations in the revised Client Resource Autopsy Requests guideline, including:
  - **Send all fetuses under 20 weeks gestation to the laboratory for the appropriate data entry.**
  - Fetus 20 weeks gestation and over - Admitting at the performing site will complete appropriate data entry. Contact transport service (North 780-444-6799) (South 403-237-8552) or funeral home of choice for transport to appropriate autopsy site.
  - For perinatal cases, the placenta is sent to the laboratory. Any special testing that requires fresh placenta (ie. Cytogenetics, microbiology, stillbirth protocol) must be collected at the time of delivery and processed at the laboratory at the originating site or wherever the originating site routinely submits such specialty testing.
  - The placenta is labelled with the mother's patient demographics, the specimen site (placenta), a biohazard formalin label (if applicable), and sent to Anatomical Pathology at the site performing the autopsy according to the following:
    - Alberta Childrens (ACH): Keep refrigerated until it can be sent fresh.
    - Red Deer Regional (RDRH): Send in 10% formalin. If formalin unavailable, keep refrigerated until it can be sent fresh.
    - Royal Alexandra (RAH): Send in 10% formalin. If formalin unavailable, keep refrigerated until it can be sent fresh.
- Indicate within the "Clinical Information" section on the paper requisition or within the "Pathology Comments" section in the EPIC order that an autopsy has been requested.
- A surgical pathology order must be placed for the placenta under Mom's ULI.
- Please see additional handling instructions for fetus and placenta on page 5 of the [Client Resource - Autopsy Requests Guideline \(labqms.com\)](http://labqms.com).

### Please refer to the following resources for additional direction on test requirements:

- **APL:** [Alberta Precision Laboratories | Lab Services \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](http://albertahealthservices.ca)
- **Dynalife:** [Test Directory \(dynamlife.ca\)](http://dynamlife.ca)



**Effective      Immediately**

**Questions/Concerns**

- Vanessa Schiewe, AP Clinical Supervisor, University of Alberta Hospital, [vanessa.schiewe@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:vanessa.schiewe@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)
- Rochelle Bain, MLA, Red Deer Regional Hospital, [rochelle.bain@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:rochelle.bain@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)
- Charity Greene, AP Clinical Supervisor, Foothills Medical Centre, [charity.greene@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:charity.greene@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)

**Approved by**

- Dr Michael Mengel, Medical Director North Sector at 780-407-8851
- Dr Dylan Pillai, Medical Director South Sector at 403-770-3578

*Effective September 1, 2023, APL has become the sole provider of all public lab services in Alberta. As a result, community lab services formally provided by DynaLIFE Medical Labs will become the responsibility of Alberta Precision Labs (APL). This change impacts all zones.*