

<b>DATE:</b>	29 April 2024
<b>TO:</b>	South Zone Physicians, Nursing, Laboratory Staff
<b>FROM:</b>	Anatomical Pathology, Alberta Precision Laboratory
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Specimen Collection Requirements for Non-Gyne Cytology Body Fluids in South Zone</b>

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## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

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### Key Message

- The current specimen collection for body fluids for non-gynecological cytology test requests is 50 ml of fresh fluid (no fixative).
- As of April 29, 2024, specimen collection requirements for body fluids for non-gynecological cytology testing has been updated, optimally requiring a minimum volume of 90 ml fresh fluid (no fixative.)
- This change is applicable to body cavity fluids such as pleural, peritoneal, and pelvic.
- Submit sample for non-gynecological cytology testing in a separate sterile container with a minimum of 90ml whenever possible.
- No minimum volume for pericardial fluid or synovial fluid for non-gynecological cytology tests.

### Background

- Body fluids may not contain much cellular material. Reports often indicate the volume of fluid received as insufficient for diagnosis and insufficient for special/ancillary tests including molecular pathology. By increasing the volume of fluid submitted more cellular material may be available for optimal cytologic evaluation.

### Action Required

- Review and follow specimen collection requirements as outlined in the APL test directory:
  - [Alberta Precision Laboratories | Lab Services \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/lab-services)

**Effective      Immediately**

### Questions/Concerns

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*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.*