



Date: April 10, 2020
To: All Zones
From: Molecular Pathology Laboratory – University of Alberta Hospital
Re: Activation of Modified Essential Test Menu

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Key Message:

Molecular Pathology North has activated a modified essential test menu starting April 13, 2020 due to staff shortages and redeployment needs in the setting of the COVID-19 pandemic. This modified schedule will be offered until further notice.

The following tests will continue to be offered with high priority and near-normal turnaround times:

- Diagnostic testing for t(15;17) (PML-RARA) for acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL)
- Diagnostic testing for FLT3 ITD mutations
- Diagnostic testing for BCR/ABL1 in new cases of acute myeloid leukemia (AML) and acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL)
- Myeloid NGS for new AML cases
- BRAF, KRAS, and NRAS testing for colorectal cancer and melanoma patients
- EGFR mutational testing for non-squamous, non-small cell lung cancer patients

The following tests will not be offered at this time:

- Factor II (Prothrombin) gene mutation
- Factor V Leiden gene mutation testing
- JAK2 exon 12 sequencing
- MLH1 hypermethylation testing

Specimens will continue to be accepted and stored for this type of testing, but testing will be delayed indefinitely.

All remaining tests in the Molecular Pathology North repertoire will continue to be offered with delayed turnaround times. If expedited testing is required, please call the Molecular Pathology North laboratory to discuss specific case requirements with the molecular pathologist on service.

Why this is important:

Patient results for non-essential cancer testing will be delayed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Essential tests are as outlined in the section above. Testing of samples deemed non-essential may be expedited after consultation with the molecular pathologist on service, if clinically required.

Action Required:

If expedited testing is required, please call the Molecular Pathology North laboratory at (780) 407-6648 and discuss the case with the molecular pathologist on service.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Dr. Cheryl Mather, Clinical Director, Molecular Pathology North Lab, (780) 407-2717 or (780) 407-2758

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by: Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, Alberta Precision Laboratories