



Date: October 19, 2020
To: All Physicians, Nurses and Laboratory Services Staff
From: Alberta Precision Laboratories, Anatomical Pathology
Re: Cardiac Biopsy Specimen Collection

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- To standardize best practice and align with the new provincial test directory, cardiac biopsy specimens are to be placed into 10% Neutral Buffered Formalin (NBF).

Why this is important:

- The immunohistochemistry laboratories have aligned practice and no longer require a fresh piece of tissue to perform immunofluorescence studies. The studies are now performed on formalin fixed, paraffin embedded tissue.
- To ensure quality of staining, it is best practice to immediately fix cardiac biopsies in 10% NBF.

Action Required:

- Ensure all cardiac biopsies are collected and placed directly into 10% NBF, as directed in the Alberta Precision Laboratories Test Directory:
<https://www.albertaprecisionlabs.ca/tc/Page13850.aspx>

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Contact your local Anatomical Pathology Laboratory

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

- Dr. Judith Hugh, Section Chief Anatomic Pathology, Alberta Precision Laboratories, North Sector
- Dr. Ranjit Waghray, Section Chief Anatomic Pathology, Alberta Precision Laboratories, South Sector