

Date: January 28, 2019
To: All Physicians in the Edmonton Zone
From: AHS Laboratory Services
Re: Change to WBC Cell Count Differential Process in non-CSF Body Fluids

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Effective Feb. 4, 2019, non-CSF body fluids processed in the Edmonton Zone will only have a differential performed if the WBC is $\geq 200 \times 10^6/L$. These include: pleural, pericardial, peritoneal and synovial fluids.
- The change in process does not apply to Cerebrospinal Fluid (differential performed if WBC $> 5 \times 10^6/L$), Blood, Bone Marrow, Urine, or Amniotic Fluid.

Why this is important:

- Historically, WBC differentials have been performed on non-CSF body fluids in the Edmonton Zone when the WBC is $> 10 \times 10^6/L$. However, WBC differentials performed on non-CSF body fluids do not have any clinical utility when the WBC is $< 200 \times 10^6/L$.
- This change will also align the Edmonton Zone with others across the province that currently perform differentials on non-CSF body fluids when the WBC is $\geq 200 \times 10^6/L$.

Action Required:

- There is no action or change in practice required by laboratory clients. Clinicians should continue to order testing as before.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr Artur Szkotak, Zone Clinical Section Chief and Divisional Director for Hematopathology, Lab services, Edmonton Zone. Ph: 780-407-7104, artur.szkotak@ahs.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr Artur Szkotak, Zone Clinical Section Chief and Divisional Director for Hematopathology, Lab services, Edmonton Zone. Ph: 780-407-7104, artur.szkotak@ahs.ca