

Date: December 4, 2015
To: EZ Surgeons, EZ Oncologists, EZ Radiologists, EZ OR Nursing Staff
From: AHS Laboratory Services
Re: Changes to the Edmonton Zone Anatomical Pathology Lymphoma Protocol

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Applicable at: RAH, MIS, UAH, CCI, GNH sites

Key Messages:

- The Edmonton Zone Anatomical Pathology sites went live with the new lymphoma protocol on July 15, 2015.
- Since then, the new protocol has been evaluated and has had some slight revisions to make the protocol more effective for patient care.
- **Effective immediately**, the following guidelines should be followed for samples with clinical suspicion of lymphoma:
Guidelines for Samples with Clinical Suspicion of Lymphoma
 - A larger biopsy allows for thorough ancillary testing and reliable interpretation. Whenever possible, submit a sample size of ≥ 1 cm.
 - Cases with high degree of suspicion of lymphoma should be sampled and submitted to the lab in the morning and if possible avoid sampling after hours to optimize patient care.

During Regular Working Hours:

If submitting tissue to the Pathology departments between their **morning start times** and **4:00 pm Monday to Friday**.

Sample Size	Sample Guidelines
Sample ≥ 1 cm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the sample as fresh to the pathology department. • Do not split the tissue.
Sample < 1 cm or a needle core biopsy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a minimum of 2 cores • If possible collect a FNA biopsy which will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -at least 2 slides; one air dried and one fixed in alcohol -a sample for flow cytometry submitted in Tissue Transport Media (TTM- contact the lab).
Sample is a large case (example: bowel/colon resections)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit sample as per routine protocols

After Cut-Off Times and Weekends:

After hours and on weekends the clinician is responsible for ensuring that the entire specimen is placed into an appropriately labelled container with formalin and is submitted to the anatomical pathology department.

Why this is important:

- The Edmonton Zone lymphoma special interest group has provided input to help incorporate best practices into the lymphoma protocol. These changes to the lymphoma protocol help to:
 - Decrease turn around times for specimens requiring the lymphoma protocol to provide optimal patient care.
 - Standardize lymphoma protocol practices across the Edmonton Zone
 - Decrease the duplication of processes

Action Required:

- All clinicians should be aware of the anatomical pathology laboratory hours at their sites and the sample guidelines listed above.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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