

Date: December 4, 2015
To: SGH Surgeons, SGH OR and Outpatient Nursing Staff
From: AHS Laboratory Services
Re: Changes to the Edmonton Zone Anatomical Pathology Lymphoma Protocol at SGH

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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 December 7, 2015 at SGH**, the following changes and guidelines should be followed for samples with clinical suspicion of lymphoma:

Changes to Submitting Samples Requiring the Lymphoma Protocol

- Applies to tissue samples from the OR or outpatients that have the lymphoma protocol requested.
- Tissue will **no longer be split and placed in TTM by the clinicians**.
- During regular working hours (see cut off times below) the sample will be submitted as **fresh tissue** to the **frozen section room** where a pathologist will examine the tissue and determine if it meets the guidelines for the lymphoma protocol. The pathologist will be responsible for splitting samples and submitting in TTM for flow cytometry.
- After cut off times and weekends (when pathologists are not on site) the clinicians will submit the entire sample into formalin for the lymphoma protocol.

Cut off Times:

If	Then
Tissue is sampled between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:30 am and 4:00 pm Monday to Thursday • 8:30 am and 11:00 am Fridays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not place the sample in formalin. • Deliver the fresh sample to the frozen section room • Notify Dr. Salarieh or the Pathologist on call of the sample. Pager #: 780-445-7466 • Notify the laboratory of the sample: Laboratory phone #: 780-418-8255
Tissue is sampled: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • after 4:00 pm Monday to Thursday • after 11:00 am on Fridays • on weekends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The clinician is to place the entire sample into an appropriately labeled container with formalin (there will be no sample for TTM). • Clearly write "Lymphoma Protocol" on the requisition to indicate to the laboratory that the sample is to undergo the lymphoma protocol.

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.

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 changes to the submission of samples requiring the lymphoma protocol, the cut off times and sample guidelines listed above for the SGH site.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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