



**Date:** May 19, 2020  
**To:** AHS & Covenant Medical Affairs – Edmonton Zone  
AHS & Covenant Nursing – Edmonton Zone  
**From:** Alberta Precision Laboratories – Edmonton Zone Anatomical Pathology  
**Re:** Client Resource – Lymphoma Protocol

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**PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE**

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**Key Message:**

- Lymphoma Protocol applies to critically ill patients whom clinicians and surgeons suspect may have lymphoma
- Client Resource supplies the guidelines to follow for submission of samples with clinical suspicion of lymphoma
- The client resource can be found on Insite:  
<https://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/lab/Page8223.aspx>
- The resource can also be found in the Guide to Laboratory Services  
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/lab/Page3293.aspx>

**Why this is important:**

- The Edmonton Zone Anatomical Pathology department triages the specimens to decrease the turnaround time for these specimens to provide optimal patient care
- Adequate sampling expedites the ability to provide a preliminary diagnosis to the clinician

**Action Required:**

- A larger biopsy allows for thorough ancillary testing and reliable interpretation. Whenever possible, submit a sample size of  $\geq 1$ cm.
- Cases with a high degree of suspicion of lymphoma should be sampled and submitted to the laboratory in the morning and if possible, avoid sampling after hours to optimize patient care.

**FRESH** tissue is sent to the Pathology departments between 8-4, Monday to Friday.

**After hours/weekends/holidays:** the entire specimen is placed into formalin

**For questions after hours:** contact Hemepath on call or the general Pathologist on call

**Sample  $\geq 1$  cm<sup>3</sup>:** The fresh specimen is placed into a clean container (a small amount of saline may be added) and a requisition completed. Deliver immediately and hand to staff at the Anatomical Pathology laboratory specimen window.



**Sample is < 1 cm or a needle core biopsy:**

If...	Then...
Minimum of 2 cores:	Place both cores into an appropriately labeled container with formalin. If possible, collect an FNA biopsy to include 2 slides (one air dried, one fixed in alcohol) and a sample submitted in Tissue Transport Media (TTM – contact lab to obtain). Complete the Routine AP Consultation request Deliver specimen and requisition immediately and hand to staff at the Pathology laboratory.
3 or more cores:	Complete the Routine AP Consultation request. Deliver specimens FRESH, with the request form, immediately and hand to staff at the Pathology laboratory

Samples from pediatric patients, that are <1 cm<sup>3</sup>, from large cases or only have 2 needle cores submitted may not follow the protocol and will be assessed as per laboratory guidelines for appropriate triage. Please provide appropriate clinical information on the requisition to aid pathology staff in making the best decision for the patient.

**After 16:00 M-F, weekends, and holidays:** ensure the entire specimen is placed into an appropriately labelled container with formalin and is submitted to the Anatomical Pathology department with a completed Anatomical Pathology requisition.

Write LYMPHOMA PROTOCOL in the clinical history along with other relevant clinical history on the Routine AP Consultation request.

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

- Dr. Raymond Lai – Lead, Lymphoma Diagnostic Team, Cross Cancer Institute  
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**This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:**

Michael Mengel, Medical Director, North Sector,  
Alberta Precision Laboratories