

Date: January 18, 2013

To: North Zone, Edmonton Zone, Central Zone, and South Zone
Physicians, Laboratory Directors, Managers, Pathologists and Anatomic
Pathology Staff

From: AHS Laboratory Services – Edmonton Zone

Re: Follow-up on Edmonton Zone IHC Laboratory Breast Biomarker Testing

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Key Messages:

- The Edmonton Zone Immunohistochemistry (EZ-IHC) Laboratory has completed parallel testing of needle core biopsy (NCB) and resection specimens.
- From January 15, 2013 forward, all positive results on the NCB will not be repeated on the resection specimen.
- EZ-IHC still requires that a representative block from the resection specimen be submitted for ALL cases to allow for Ki67 testing, quality control and ad hoc repeats.

The complete procedure is as follows:

For Invasive Carcinomas:

- Please send needle core biopsy (NCB) and vacuum-assisted biopsy (VAB) samples.
- A tumor block from the **final resection** specimen **MUST** still be sent to the EZ-IHC Laboratory.
- Please indicate “INVASIVE CARCINOMA BIOMARKER PANEL” in the ordering material (paper or electronic) for core and resection specimen blocks.

Testing of Ductal Carcinoma in Situ (DCIS) with no invasive tumour:

- NCB or VAB samples containing DCIS only are NOT to be routinely sent for testing.
- Biomarker evaluation of DCIS will be performed on surgical resection specimens ONLY.
- Please indicate “DCIS BIOMARKER PANEL” for these cases.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Gilbert Bigras, Director of Edmonton Zone IHC Lab, Gilbert.Bigras@albertahealthservices.ca
- Dr. Judith Hugh, Breast Special Interest Group Lead, Judith.Hugh@albertahealthservices.ca
- Ms. Robin Stocks, Technical Supervisor, EZ-IHC Lab, Robin.Stocks@albertahealthservices.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Robert Rennie, Deputy Zone Clinical Department Head, AHS Laboratory Services, Edmonton Zone