

**Date:** May 19, 2016

**To:** All Zones  
Physicians, Nurses, Laboratory Directors & Managers, Oncologists and Pathologists

**From:** Genetic Laboratory Services (GLS)

**Re:** *KIT* mutation assay for acute myelogenous leukemia (AML)

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

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**Key Messages:**

As of Monday April 4, 2016 the GLS Molecular Pathology Laboratory located at the University of Alberta Hospital has begun to offer a *KIT* mutation assay for acute myelogenous leukemia (AML).

**Why this is important:**

Oncogenic *KIT* gene mutations are present in a subset of acute myelogenous leukemias and are correlated with t(8;21), inv(16) and t(16;16). The mutations occur most commonly in exons 8 and 17 of the *KIT* gene, but the relative frequency varies somewhat among different studies. Cases with exon 17 mutations have a significantly worse prognosis.

**Action Required:**

Please refer to the AHS Central and Edmonton Zone Test Directory for additional test information at:  
<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/3217.asp>

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

Dr. Iyare Izevbaye, Lab Head, Molecular Pathology Laboratory, Genetic Laboratory Services, (780) 407-8025

**This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:**

Dr. Martin Somerville, Medical/Scientific Director, Genetic Laboratory Services  
Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Interim Provincial Medical Director, Laboratory Services