



Date: October 19, 2020
To: Edmonton and Calgary Clinicians, Nursing, DI staff
From: Anatomical Pathology, Alberta Precision Laboratories
Re: New Lymphoma Protocol for Edmonton and Calgary

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Key Message:

- A new, provincial Lymphoma Diagnostic Pathway has been established and is being implemented in Edmonton and Calgary.
- This Pathway aims to expedite and support symptomatic patients who are highly suspected of having lymphoma following best practice recommendations.
- The pathway moves away from excisional biopsies to a protocol that includes collection of core needle biopsies for lymphoma diagnosis.
- Core needle biopsies will now be split by DI Staff at the time of collection for Surgical Pathology and for Flow Cytometry Testing.

Why this is important:

- Using evidence-based criteria to ensure adequate sampling and diagnostic work-up of core needle biopsies, suspected lymphoma cases are assigned directly to the Lymphoma Diagnostic pathologist team.
- This includes standard needle core size, number of specimen cores and total length of cores.
- The pathway aims to improve patient experience, improve symptom management and time to diagnosis as well as reduce hospitalization related to diagnosis.
- Expansion of the pathway to regional sites may be explored in the future.

Action Required:

- See **Client Resource – Lymphoma Protocol** for submission guidelines.

Effective Date: November 2, 2020

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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