

Date: April 1, 2013

To: North Zone, Central Zone, and Edmonton Zone
All Physicians, Alberta Perinatal Health Program, Nurse Managers, Educators and Practitioners, Registered Midwives, Zone Operational Leaders, Laboratory Directors, Managers and Pathologists

From: AHS Laboratory Services - North Zone, Central Zone, and Edmonton Zone

Re: Perinatal Autopsy Requests

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- The occurrence of an intrauterine death is a devastating experience for families and caregivers. The “Alberta Stillborn Investigation Protocol” was developed and implemented in 1998 to assist healthcare providers in ensuring a thorough investigation for the cause of stillbirths. This protocol was developed by the Alberta Medical Association in collaboration with Alberta stakeholders and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba. The protocol can be found on the Alberta Perinatal Health Program website (<http://www.aphp.ca/stillbornprotocol.html>). This protocol is meant to ensure that all stillborns have a thoughtful and thorough investigation and encourages physicians and midwives to request an autopsy on all stillborns.
 - For stillborns, the definition of an autopsy case remains unchanged, equal to or greater than 20 weeks gestation (or more than 500 grams in weight, if gestational age is unknown). Consent is required for autopsy; however, a limited examination can be specified, e.g., photos, x-rays, external examination, cytogenetic studies, DNA banking, restricted internal exam, etc.
 - For intrauterine deaths that occur under 20 weeks, only an external fetal examination is performed unless a consent for autopsy is received.
- The result of placenta pathology is important in determining the cause of death or associated conditions. The placenta should be sent for examination in all cases of perinatal death.
- Perinatal autopsies are performed at the sites as outlined:

Zone	Send body and associated placenta to:
Central Zone	Red Deer Regional Hospital Laboratory Hours of Operation: 08:00 - 15:00 Monday, Wednesday, Friday
North Zone	
Edmonton Zone – All facilities except UAH	Royal Alexandra Hospital Laboratory Hours of Operation: 08:00 - 16:15 Monday-Friday
Edmonton Zone – UAH	University of Alberta Hospital Laboratory Hours of Operation: 08:00 - 15:15 Monday-Friday
Note:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The health zone site/facility will continue to be responsible for the transport of the body to and from the performing Laboratory. • Parents are not required to pay for perinatal autopsies. 	

Inquiries may be directed to:

Zone	Contact:
Central Zone	Barb Ewachow, MLT (Tech III Histology-Cytology) Phone: 403-343-4837 Email: Barbara.Ewachow@albertahealthservices.ca Hours: 07:00 – 15:00 Monday-Friday
North Zone	Glenn Hauck, MLT (Charge Tech – Histology) Phone: 780-538-7429 E-mail: Glenn.Hauck@albertahealthservices.ca Hours: 08:00 – 16:00 Monday-Friday
Edmonton UAH	Cameron Lloyd, MLT (Tech III - Anatomical Pathology) Phone: 780-407-8953 E-mail: Cameron.Lloyd@albertahealthservices.ca Hours: 08:00 – 15:15 Monday-Friday UAH Autopsy Pager: 780-445-5374 Hours: 08:00 – 15:15 Monday-Friday
Edmonton RAH	Barb Romansky, MLT (Tech III - Anatomical Pathology) Phone: 780-735-5913 E-mail: Barb.Romansky@albertahealthservices.ca Hours: 08:00 – 16:00 Monday-Friday RAH Autopsy Pager: 780-445-5281 Hours: 08:00 – 16:00 Monday-Friday

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Robert Rennie, Deputy Zone Clinical Department Head, AHS Laboratory Services, Edmonton Zone
 Dr. James Wesenberg, Provincial Medical/Scientific Director, AHS Laboratory Services