

Date: December 10, 2015
To: South Zone East – All Physicians/Physician Offices, South Zone East Labs- All Staff,
 South Zone West – Cytology Department
From: AHS Laboratory Services
Re: South Zone East Service Transition –Community Based Non-Gynecological Cytology
 Processing & Screening

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- **Effective January 1, 2016**, Medicine Hat Diagnostic Laboratory (MHDL) will discontinue processing, screening and reporting community non-gynecological cytology samples in South Zone East.
- Samples collected at physician offices in Medicine Hat, Brooks, Bassano, Bow Island and Oyen will be transferred from Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Lab (MHRH) daily to Chinook Regional Hospital (CRH) Laboratory for **processing, staining and screening** by the cytology department.
- Screened slides will be returned to MHRH for review and final diagnosis by the Medicine Hat Pathologist. This process is the same as is currently used for hospital based non-gyne cytology samples.
- Liquid Based Cytology using ThinPrep methodology will now be available for community cytology samples in Phase 1 of the transition.

Phase 1: January 1-31, 2016	Phase 2: February 1-29, 2016	Phase 3: March 1-31, 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current MHDL Cytology Requisition and collection supplies. • Change to AHS Cytology Report format. • Use of Liquid Based Cytology methodology for community non-gyne cytology samples. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll out of Cytolyt collection kits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urine Collection Kit ○ 25 mL Cytolyt Container ○ 7.5 mL Cytolyt Container • New South Zone Cytology Requisition. • Training will be provided to physician offices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discontinue MHDL Supply Order form for Histology/Cytology Supplies. • SZE Physician Office Supply form for Histology/Cytology requisitions and supplies. • Supply orders faxed directly to MHRH Laboratory.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MHDL Courier pick up of samples at physician offices and delivery to Medicine Hat Regional Hospital. • MHDL Courier delivery of paper reports. • MHDL Courier delivery of collection supplies. • Reports are also in Meditech EMR, NetCare and electronically to physician office systems. 		

Why this is important:

- It is essential that Cytology samples collected at MHRH Lab are reported by Pathologists in Medicine Hat to correlate the Cytology diagnosis/findings with any corresponding biopsy. This ensures appropriate patient management is maintained.
- Liquid Based Cytology is the primary method of Cytology sample processing. The ThinPrep processing method enhances the sensitivity and specificity of a result.

Action Required:

- Be aware of timelines and phasing. Alert Office Staff of these changes. Contact Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Laboratory directly with any inquiries.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Results and General Information: Lab Office 403-529-8830 option 1

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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