

Date: 16/12/14

To: South Zone East - All Physicians and Nursing Unit Managers, Medicine Hat Regional Hospital (MHRH) Respiratory Manager, MHRH Diagnostic Imaging Manager, MHRH Renal Dialysis Manager, MHRH Cancer Center Manager, South Zone East Labs- All Staff

From: AHS Laboratory Services – South Zone – Medicine Hat Regional Laboratory

Re: South Zone East Service Transition – Hospital Based Non-Gynecological Cytology Screening

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### Key Messages:

- **Effective January 2, 2015**, all **hospital based** Non-Gynecological Cytology samples collected at Medicine Hat Regional Hospital (MHRH), Brooks, Bassano, Bow Island and Oyen hospitals will be transferred to Chinook Regional Hospital (CRH) Laboratory for **processing, staining and screening**.
- Screened slides will be returned to MHRH for review and final diagnosis by the Medicine Hat Pathologist.
- The current processing method of Cytology samples at MHRH is cytospin. The transition of Cytology services will include the transition of sample processing to Liquid Base Cytology using the ThinPrep processor.

Phase 1: January 2-31, 2015	Phase 2: February 2 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No changes to sample collection</li> <li>• Current MHRH Blue Cytology Requisition</li> <li>• Sample accessioning/processing at MHRH Lab by Histology</li> <li>• Cyto spun slides and smears screened by Cytotechnologist in Lethbridge</li> <li>• Final diagnosis by Medicine Hat Pathologists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Samples, where appropriate, collected in CytoLyt preservative</b></li> <li>• South Zone Cytology Requisition # 101945 (currently under development)</li> <li>• Sample accessioning at MHRH Lab by Histology</li> <li>• ThinPrep processing, staining, screening and interpretation by Cytotechnologist in Lethbridge</li> <li>• Final diagnosis by Medicine Hat Pathologists</li> </ul>

### Why this is important:

- It is essential that Cytology samples collected at the MHRH 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 Base Cytology is the primary method of Cytology sample processing. The ThinPrep processing method enhances the sensitivity and specificity of a result.
  - Hyperlink to CytologyStuff.com website: [ThinPrep Non-Gynecological Cytology](http://www.cytologystuff.com)
  - Hyperlink to liquid base cytology information [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liquid-based\\_cytology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liquid-based_cytology)

### Action Required For Phase 2: February 2, 2015

- Review the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Guide to Lab Services for appropriate collection and handling of samples for Cytology testing. See Table 1. Changes to Non-Gynecological Cytology Sample Collection for detailed summary.
- Call MHRH Histology Laboratory (ext. 1556) to order fixative containers/kits.

- Urine Collection Kits for voided urine
- For brushing and scrapings for cytology testing: 30 mL containers with 25 mL of CytoLyt fixative
- For fine needle aspirate procedures and samples collected during cystoscopy procedures: 30 mL containers with 7.5 mL of CytoLyt fixative

Table 1. Changes to Non-Gynecological Cytology Sample Collection Phase 2: **February 2, 2015**

Sample Type	Collection Technique	
Brushing	Rinse brush vigorously into a 30 mL containers pre-filled with 25 mL of CytoLyt fixative	
Fine Needle Aspirate	<b>IF...</b>	<b>THEN...</b>
	Thyroid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No change in booking procedure.</li> <li>• Prepare direct smears and air dry</li> <li>• Deposit remaining sample and rinse needle into a 30 mL container pre-filled with 7.5 mL of CytoLyt fixative</li> </ul>
	Salivary gland, lymph node or neck	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare 1-2 direct smears and air dry</li> <li>• Deposit remaining sample and rinse needle into a 30 mL container pre-filled with 7.5 mL of CytoLyt fixative</li> </ul>
	Cyst fluid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deposit sample and rinse needle into a 30 mL container pre-filled with 7.5 mL of CytoLyt fixative</li> </ul>
	Other than listed above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deposit sample and rinse needle into a 30 mL container pre-filled with 7.5 mL of CytoLyt fixative</li> </ul>
Scraping	Rinse the swab or spatula into a 30 mL container pre-filled with 25 mL of CytoLyt fixative	
Urine - collected during cystoscopy	<b>IF...</b>	<b>THEN...</b>
	Sample requires Cytology testing only	Collect sample directly into a 30 mL container pre-filled with 7.5 mL of CytoLyt fixative
	Sample will need more than one test completed (in addition to Cytology testing)	Collect sample into a sterile container and send to laboratory with the appropriate requisitions
Voided Urine	Cytology Urine Collection Kits are available for voided urine. Voided urine is collected into a 90 mL sterile container. Urine is then added to the 30 mL container containing 7.5 mL of CytoLyt fixative.	

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

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

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