

**Date:** June 1, 2016  
**To:** South Zone – Physicians, Nursing and Laboratory Staff  
**From:** AHS Laboratory Services - South Zone  
**Re:** NEW Critical and Priority Request Definitions in Anatomical Pathology

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## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

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### Key Messages:

- New terminology has been defined in Anatomical Pathology for cases that require faster than routine processing and reporting:
  1. **CRITICAL:**
    - Goal is to provide an initial report within 24 hours from received time in the laboratory (includes non-working days). The report will be provided to the requesting physician within the target **CRITICAL** case Turn Around Time, according to site specific processes.
    - The requesting physician **MUST** contact the appropriate Pathologist verbally to request **CRITICAL** processing and reporting.
  2. **PRIORITY:**
    - For other urgent cases – the initial report will be completed in less than the standard turnaround time.
- Review attached policy “**Critical and Priority Request Definitions for Pathology Samples**”.

### Why this is important:

- The terms and processes used for cases that require faster than routine processing and reporting (i.e. **Rush, STAT, Urgent, etc.**) have previously been inconsistent throughout the various Anatomical Pathology sites around the province.
- Inconsistent terminology and practices leads Anatomical Pathology staff and clinicians unsure of how the case will be handled and the expected date of the report.

### Action Required:

- Replace current terminology (Rush, STAT, Urgent, etc.) with new terminology that is specific to Anatomical Pathology samples – **CRITICAL** and **PRIORITY**.
- Replace current stickers/labels/stamps with “old” terminology with new **CRITICAL** or **PRIORITY** stickers/labels/stamps.
- Contact the appropriate Pathologist to verbally discuss any **CRITICAL** request.
- Ensure appropriate relevant clinical history is included on the Requisition.

### Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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