

**Date:** December 15 2014

**To:** ALL PHYSICIANS PERFORMING TISSUE BIOPSY or SURGICAL EXCISION  
(Central Zone - fDTH)

**From:** AHS Laboratory Services

**Re:** TISSUE PATHOLOGY REPORTING DELAYS

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**PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE**

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**Key Messages:**

**Tissue Pathology Reporting Delays**

**Background:**

The histopathology (tissue processing) laboratory is implementing a number of necessary IT and equipment updates (specimen tracking system, tissue processors, dissection stations, digital dictation, lab information system update, slide cutting stations and automated tissue staining). These changes began in the fall of 2014 and will extend well into 2015 (May – June). They have resulted in periods of frontline staff shortage, while training and process development related to these updates occurs.

Unfortunately, this will result in DELAYS IN TURN AROUND TIME for the reporting of tissue pathology samples. We estimate, on average, a 7 day delay for reporting of ROUTINE tissue samples until these projects are completed in late spring/early summer of 2015.

**URGENT/RUSH REPORTING:**

If a tissue sample needs to be assessed on a more urgent basis, we request that you flag these cases as URGENT or RUSH during this period. These cases will be prioritized in the laboratory. Please label BOTH THE REQUISITION AND THE EXTERIOR OF THE BAG/CONTAINER as "URGENT or RUSH", in order to identify these cases as quickly as possible. We encourage you to limit the number of these cases to only those where a delay in reporting will significantly impact care.

The pathology department regrets these delays. The changes will, however, result in improved quality of specimen processing and patient reports in the future.

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

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

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