

Date: August 12, 2011

To: Central Zone – Former David Thompson Health Region
Obstetric Physicians and Laboratory Staff

From: AHS Laboratory Services – Central Zone

Re: Transfer of Perinatal Autopsies to Royal Alexandra Hospital, Edmonton

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

The Red Deer Regional Hospital Pathologists are pleased to announce that the performance of perinatal autopsies will be transferred to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton as of Sept 6, 2011. These cases will then benefit from assessment by Pathologists with greater expertise in this specialized area of pathology practice. Please note the following points about this change of process.

1. The consent form for these cases will change to the Edmonton Zone Alberta Health Services Autopsy Consent and Consultation Request Form CH-0275 (Sept 2008). Please note that this form **REQUIRES** the signature of the clinician, and completion of the Clinical History section. The form may be accessed on the AHS Laboratory Services website at the following link <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/3320.asp>.
2. If your location within the Central Zone is such that perinatal autopsy cases are already managed either in Edmonton or Calgary, then your process will not change.
3. The definition of an autopsy case remains unchanged, greater than 20 weeks gestation or more than 500 grams in weight. Intrauterine deaths that occur under 20 weeks and less than 500 grams are considered surgical cases. These will continue to be handled in Red Deer as previously.
4. Transportation of the body to and from Edmonton will be arranged by the Laboratory in your local facility. Costs for this transportation will be covered by the Laboratory.

For additional questions contact:

Dr. A.D. Thompson, Pathologist - Red Deer Regional Hospital at 403-343-4714 or email Angela.thompson@albertahealthservices.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. James Wesenberg, AHS Medical / Scientific Director, Laboratory Services - Regional Centres and Rural