

# **Laboratory Bulletin**

Date: July 12, 2011

To: Central Zone, Edmonton Zone, North Zone

Physicians, Nursing, and Laboratory Directors and Managers

From: AHS Laboratory Services – Edmonton Zone

Molecular Pathology Laboratory – University of Alberta Hospital (UAH)

Re: Change in specimen collection requirements

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#### **Key Messages:**

Effective Monday July 25, 2011, the Molecular Pathology Laboratory will require blood and bone
marrow specimens for all RNA based tests to be collected in PAXgene Blood RNA or PAXgene Bone
Marrow RNA tubes, respectively. In addition, a single EDTA tube must be collected with each sample.

# Why this is important:

 RNA is a labile compound and is particularly affected by temperature and the amount of time between sample collection and processing. The use of PAXgene tubes stabilizes RNA and improves yields, which is expected to result in fewer requests for specimen re-collection and increase the reliability of results.

# **Applicable Test Requests:**

- qualitative/quantitative t(9;22) BCR/ABL1
- t(15;17) PML/RARA
- t(8;21) RUNX1/RUNX1T1

## **Specimen Collection and Transport Requirements:**

- A sterile dedicated sample is required for Molecular Pathology testing.
- The Molecular Pathology Laboratory (UAH) must receive the sample, ON ICE or cold pack, within 24 hours of collection.
- If transport to UAH is anticipated to be greater than 24 hours, **contact the UAH Molecular Pathology Laboratory** for further direction at 780-407-6648.

For Blood Samples:	Using a butterfly needle and holding the tube below the arm, <b>first</b> collect a minimum of 4 mL in an EDTA tube, <b>then</b> 2.5 mL in a PAXgene Blood RNA tube, in that order. <b>Place tubes ON ICE. Transport samples to UAH asap on ICE or cold pack.</b>
For Bone Marrow Samples:	Place 2 mL of bone marrow into an EDTA tube <b>AND</b> not more than 2 mL of bone marrow into a PAXgene Bone Marrow RNA tube. Order of draw is not important. <b>Place tubes ON ICE. Transport samples to UAH asap on ICE or cold pack.</b>

#### Ordering Information:

- PAXgene Tubes may be ordered from the UAH Laboratory by faxing order form to 780-407-8599.
- Cross Cancer Institute Laboratory will order tubes through the supplier.

### For additional questions contact:

- Dr. John Coffin, Laboratory Scientist, Molecular Pathology Lab at 780-407-3181 or
- Molecular Pathology Laboratory at 780-407-6648.

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

Dr. Robert Rennie, Clinical Department Head, Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Edmonton Zone, AHS Dr. Martin Somerville, Director, Genetic Laboratory Services