

Date: April 1, 2011

To: South Zone - West
Physicians, Nursing Unit Managers, Laboratory Sites, Collection Sites

From: AHS Laboratory Services – South Zone (West)
Dr. B. Popma, Zone Clinical Department Head, (Co-Lead), Laboratory South Zone
Dr. C. Hegedus, Cytology Consultant Pathologist

Re: LB-06-11 NEW REPORTING SYSTEM FOR THYROID CYTOLOGY

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

Effective April 1, 2011, Chinook Regional Hospital Laboratory will be implementing the new Bethesda System for Reporting Thyroid Cytopathology.

Why is this important?

The Bethesda System for Reporting Thyroid Cytopathology was recently created.

The present reporting system for thyroid Cytology is institution specific and terminology for thyroid FNA has varied significantly from one laboratory to another. Laboratory specific reporting terminology can create confusion in some cases and hinder sharing of clinically meaningful data among multiple institutions.

New:

Chinook Regional Hospital Laboratory will be implementing the new Bethesda reporting system.

- It provides uniform terminology for reporting thyroid FNA results.
- It allows cytopathologists to communicate thyroid FNA interpretations to referring physicians in terms that are succinct, unambiguous and clinically helpful.
- It facilitates cytologic-histologic correlation for thyroid diseases.
- It allows easy and reliable sharing of data between different laboratories.
- Major differences between current reporting and the Bethesda reporting system are:

Previous Reporting System Categories	Bethesda Reporting System Categories
NON-DIAGNOSTIC	NONDIAGNOSTIC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 choices now instead of See Adequacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cyst fluid only ○ Unsatisfactory, see specimen adequacy ○ Virtually acellular specimen ○ See COMMENTS
NEGATIVE FOR MALIGNANCY	BENIGN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • removal of benign cyst • addition of granulomatous (subacute) thyroiditis
INDETERMINATE FOR MALIGNANCY	ATYPIA OF UNDETERMINED SIGNIFICANCE
ATYPICAL	SUSPICIOUS FOR A FOLLICULAR NEOPLASM
SUSPICIOUS FOR MALIGNANCY	SUSPICIOUS FOR MALIGNANCY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specific types of carcinomas may be selected
POSITIVE FOR MALIGNANCY	MALIGNANT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the specific type of malignancy may be selected from an expanded list

References:

- Ali, SZ, Cibas ES. The Bethesda System for Reporting Thyroid Cytopathology. New York, NY: Springer.2009.
- Ali, SZ, Cibas ES. The Bethesda System for Reporting Thyroid Cytopathology. Am J Clin Pathol. 2009;132:658-665: Springer.2009.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by Dr. Valerie Boras, Consulting Pathologist, Microbiology/Immunology, Chinook Regional Hospital