

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum

To: Provincial Clinical Hematology Groups, Hematopathologists, Provincial Laboratory Pathologists, and Gynecologic Oncology

From: Dr. Wenda Greer, Clinical Director of Molecular Diagnostics
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Date: December 18, 2020

Subject: IGHV and BRCA Testing

The Molecular Diagnostics laboratory is now offering two new tests:

1. IGHV mutational analysis

As the therapeutic landscape for chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) continues to expand, biological predictors of response to therapy are becoming increasingly important. One such predictive biomarker is the mutational status of the variable region of the immunoglobulin heavy chain (IGHV) gene, which is a powerful predictor of duration of response and overall survival with chemoimmunotherapy (CIT).

IGHV testing will be restricted to patients who have been diagnosed with CLL. This testing should only be ordered by a Hematologist or Hematopathologist.

2. BRCA gene testing

BRCA testing will be done on high-grade serous carcinoma (HGSC) of the ovary. Additionally, HGSCs of the tube and peritoneum are eligible for testing. This testing should only be ordered by a Gynecologic Oncologist after obtaining informed consent from the patient.

Testing must be ordered using the molecular requisition (Req #CD2573). Please check off “IGHV somatic hypermutation” for IGHV mutational analysis and “Somatic BRCA ½” for BRCA gene testing.

If you have any questions please contact Dr. Wenda Greer at 902-473-6691 (wenda.greer@nshealth.ca) or the Molecular Diagnostic laboratory at 902-473-6665.