

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum

To: NS Laboratory Directors, NS Laboratory Managers
From: Dr. Wenda Greer, Clinical Director of Molecular Diagnostics
Randy Veinotte, Esoteric Laboratory Manager
Date: December 18, 2020
Subject: New Testing for Circulating Tumor DNA

The Molecular Diagnostics laboratory is now offering a new test to detect sensitizing and resistance EGFR mutations in circulating tumor DNA in lung cancer patients. The detection of these mutations in blood plasma might allow the patient to move to second line therapy without the need for a second biopsy at relapse.

Information for provincial laboratories

Collect the patient's blood in two 10 mL Streck black and brown stoppered tubes. The blood must be kept and shipped at 4°C and is stable for up to 14 days.

Streck tubes can be purchased from Somagen:

- Vendor code – 111883
- Description – cell free DNABCT
- Material number – STR218996
- Unit of order – 6 tubes each

For CZ laboratories using Millennium, the orderable is DNA ct. For those who use Meditech please continue to use a generic molecular orderable but be sure to collect the Streck tubes, not EDTA tubes. For all, please send the completed molecular requisition (Req #CD2573) with the sample.

If you have any questions please contact Lloydine Skinner at 902-473-6387 (Lloydine.skinner@nshealth.ca) or the Molecular Diagnostic laboratory at 902-473-6665.