

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum

To: Central Zone Healthcare Providers and Health Service Directors

From: Dr Allam Shawwa – Medical Director Core Hematology, Central Zone
Cindy Andrews – Manager Core Lab, QEII sites, Central Zone
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Date: September 13, 2021

Subject: Changes in reporting of cerebrospinal fluid cell count results in Central Zone

Effective September 21, 2021, the Central Zone laboratories will utilize automated methodology to analyze cell counts in cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) samples. The following will be implemented with this change:

1. The term 'White Blood Cell (WBC) count' will no longer be used. The term 'Total Nucleated Cell (TNC) count' will be used to report the presence of any nucleated cells within the CSF. This will encompass WBC and other non-hematological nucleated cells that may be present in the CSF including, but not limited to, malignant, choroidal and ependymal cells.
2. The lower limit for the red blood cell (RBC) count threshold will be **3,000 x 10⁶/L**. Any CSF-RBC result that falls below this limit will be reported as < 3,000 x 10⁶/L.

Please direct any questions or concerns to Dr. Allam Shawwa, Medical Director Core Hematology at 902-443-1236.