

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum

To: Central Zone Healthcare Providers and Health Service Directors
From: Dr. Allam Shawwa, Medical Director of Core Hematology Lab, PLM CZ
Cindy Andrews, Manager QEII Core Laboratories, PLM CZ
Date: October 24, 2023
Subject: **Introduction of automated two-part differential for CSF cell count requests**

Effective November 8, 2023, Central Zone (CZ) laboratories will report an automated differential as part of cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) cell count testing. The results of the automated CSF differential are made available to the care provider in the same instance as the cell count.

The automated CSF differential is reported in instances when the total nucleated cell (TNC) count is greater than/equal to $5 \times 10^6/L$; below this threshold, automated differential results are withheld. The automated differential is reported in two parts, each consisting of relative percent and absolute counts:

- a) Mononuclear Autodiff component
- b) Polymorphonuclear Autodiff component

Regardless of the CSF-TNC count, a manual differential will continue to be provided.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Allam Shawwa 902-443- 1236 or allam.shawwa@nshealth.ca