

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum

To: Nova Scotia Physicians and Laboratories
From: Dr. E. Filter – Cytology Section Head, Division of Anatomical Pathology
Colleen Caines – Manager, Division of Anatomical Pathology
Date: July 15th, 2016
Subject: Non-Gynecological Cytology Reporting Updates

This memo is only applicable to those Nova Scotia laboratories that send their non-gynecological specimens to our Cytopathology lab in Central Zone.

The QEII Cytopathology Laboratory has updated our Non-Gynecological reporting terminology to align with current cytology reporting standards. Please note the following changes and additions to diagnostic categories:

- “**Abnormal (See Comment)**” is replaced by “**Atypical Cells Present (See Comment)**”
- “**Suggestive of Malignancy**” is replaced by “**Suspicious for Malignancy**”.
- A new diagnostic category of “**Indeterminate (See Comment)**” has been introduced. This category will be reported at the discretion of the Cytopathologist and will be rendered based on the unique context of each case.

Please refer to the comment field in these reports where the cytological findings, differential diagnoses, and rationale for the diagnosis will be outlined. Please note that the other diagnostic categories (i.e. Unsatisfactory / No Diagnosis Made, Benign, Negative for Malignant Cells, Positive for Malignant Cells) and thyroid cytology reporting terminology will otherwise remain unchanged.

Please contact Dr. Emily Filter at (902)473-6895 with any questions or concerns.