

## *Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum*

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To: Central Zone Physicians, Clinics, Health Service Directors

From: Dr. L. Geldenhuys, Chief of Service, Division of Anatomical Pathology, Central Zone  
Colleen Caines, Manager, Division of Anatomical Pathology, Central Zone

Date: March 5, 2018

Subject: **Collection, Handling and Transportation Requirements for Physician Office and Clinic Tissue Specimens**

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The Division of Anatomical Pathology in Central Zone is changing the handling and delivery requirements for Anatomical Pathology tissue specimens collected in Central Zone physician offices and clinics. Effective April 3, 2018 specimens must be delivered to the laboratory **same day** or within **24 hours of collection**. This requirement will support laboratory processes to ensure optimal patient care and timely reporting of results by improving efficiency of workflow.

The **collection date and time** as well as the **time placed in formalin** must be clearly indicated on the requisition. This information is required to ensure optimal fixation before processing.

In addition to improving specimen flow, Anatomical Pathology at the Mackenzie Building is extending regular hours effective April 3, 2018. New regular hours are:

- Monday to Friday: 7am to 11pm.
- Weekends and Holidays: 7am to 4pm.

Specimens can be dropped off 24 hour/day; 7 days/week at the MacKenzie building, VG site specimen receiving location. Please refer to the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine website at <http://www.nshealth.ca/blood-collection> for additional drop off locations and hours within Central Zone.

Please contact Syndy LeBlanc, Technical Supervisor, 902-473-7704 with questions or concerns.