

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum

To: Central Zone Physicians, Health Service Directors

From: Dr. L. Geldenhuys, Chief of Service, Division of Anatomical Pathology, Central Zone
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Date: January 21, 2019

Subject: Revised Surgical Pathology Requisition and Reminder of Specimen Delivery Requirements

The Division of Anatomical Pathology recently revised the surgical pathology requisition to incorporate changes that will aid in obtaining important information for the triage and prioritization of cases.

Revisions to the requisition include:

- request for Special Test section to outline the most commonly ordered special tests and the required specimen/additive for each,
- specimen Priority Section to aid in appropriately triaging cases,
- expanded space to list multiple specimens,
- defined blocks to indicate time out of patient, time in formalin and time opened (in lab), and
- area to indicate if additional specimens will follow.

Inclusion of detailed clinical information and utilization of the new specimen priority system as indicated on the requisition will help further improve turn-around-time for biopsies, cancer resections and other urgent conditions.

Please follow the normal process for obtaining the revised requisition (print number: **QE7188_12_2018**.) Old versions of the requisition will not be accepted after **March 1st, 2019**.

Reminder: In March, 2018, changes were communicated regarding the handling and delivery requirements for resection specimens collected in the OR. These specimens must be delivered to the onsite laboratory within 30 minutes of collection. In addition, all small specimens must be delivered to the laboratory same day or within 24 hours of collection. Recent audits have demonstrated that the turnaround time when comparing September, 2017 to September, 2018 shows significant improvement. The laboratory continues to work with stakeholders by providing on-going education in support of the changes above.

Please contact Colleen Caines at (902) 473-7702 or by email at cainesc@nshealth.ca if you have any questions or concerns.