

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum

To: Central Zone Physicians and Health Service Directors
From: Dr. Laurette Geldenhuys, Service Chief, Division of Anatomical Pathology
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Date: January 20, 2020
Subject: Tissue and Miscellaneous Material Exempt from Submission to the Central Zone
Anatomical Pathology Laboratory

The diagnostic testing policy, *Tissue & Miscellaneous Material Exempt from Submission to the Anatomical Pathology Laboratory DT-PL-001*, which guides the submission of tissue and other material to the Central Zone (CZ) Anatomical Pathology Laboratory has been revised. The list of specimens exempt from submission has been updated to better reflect best practice and align with Canadian Choosing Wisely guidelines, which will help reduce unnecessary testing.

Effective immediately, the following additions to the exemption list have been made:

- Routine arthroplasty specimens
- Routine therapeutic abortion specimens
- Clarification that foreign bodies removed at surgery include intrauterine contraceptive devices
- Abdominal aortic aneurysm contents
- Atheromatous plaque
- Blood clot/thrombus
- Varicose veins
- Amputation for trauma or vascular disease
- Normal toenails and fingernails that are removed for cosmetic or hygienic purposes
- Pannus
- Tissue from debridement
- Intraocular lens
- Epiretinal membrane

For a complete list of exemptions please refer to *Tissue & Miscellaneous Material Exempt from Submission to the Anatomical Pathology Laboratory DT-PL-001* located on the NSHA OP3 website. Please note: any tissue or material listed in the policy as being exempt will still be accepted for processing and review if requested by the submitting physician.

If there are any questions, please contact Geoff Peladeau at (902) 473-7702 or Geoff.Peladeau@nshealth.ca.