

## *Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum*

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**To:** NSHA, St. Anne's Community Centre and IWK Physicians, Health Service Managers and Nurse Educators

**From:** Program of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

**Date:** October 5, 2017

**Subject:** Process Changes for Peripheral Blood Smears

In an effort to continue to provide safe, high quality laboratory services, the program of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine is implementing changes, effective immediately, to ensure standardized services across the province.

At this time, we have changed how we review peripheral blood smears (i.e. manual differentials) while an examination of our processes in each zone is carried out and long term recommendations are put in place. Additional supports such as transportation will minimize the impact to clinical services to ensure:

- Results are reported the same day or within 24–30 hours.
- Priority cases are expedited to a Pathologist for review as appropriate.

There are no changes to blood collection services.

The following changes have been put in place:

### **Western Zone**

- Manual differentials from Queens General will be referred to South Shore Regional Hospital.
- Manual differentials from Roseway and Digby General Hospitals will be referred to Yarmouth Regional Hospital.

### **Eastern Zone**

- Manual differentials from Victoria County Memorial, Inverness Consolidated Memorial, Sacred Heart, Buchanan Memorial and Northside General will be referred to Cape Breton Regional Hospital.
- Manual Differentials from New Waterford General will be referred to Glace Bay Health Center.
- Manual differentials from Strait Richmond, Guysborough Memorial, Eastern Memorial and St. Mary's Memorial will be referred to Saint Martha's Regional Hospital.

### **Northern Zone**

- No changes

### **Central Zone**

- No changes

If you have further questions about this change, please contact:

Western Zone PLM Director, David King – [David.King@nshealth.ca](mailto:David.King@nshealth.ca)

Northern Zone PLM Director, Jim Humby – [James.Humby@nshealth.ca](mailto:James.Humby@nshealth.ca)

Eastern Zone PLM Director, Meredith Forrest-Parks – [Meredith.Forrest-Parks@nshealth.ca](mailto:Meredith.Forrest-Parks@nshealth.ca)

Central Zone PLM Director, Anita Muisse – [Anita.Muisse@nshealth.ca](mailto:Anita.Muisse@nshealth.ca)