

## Provincial Anatomical Pathology

# Newsletter

The purpose of this quarterly newsletter is to update the pathologists of BC on functions of the Provincial AP Advisory Committee

### Digital Pathology

Provincial Lab Medicine Services (PLMS), with guidance from the Leadership Council, is working with health authorities to create an integrated provincial-level Digital Pathology solution. Please see attached for more information.



02\_Digital  
Pathology in BC Nev

### Pathology Reviews

Feedback from clinicians is that there are inconsistencies in what is being reported in pathology reviews. When a path review is requested, the standard of care is to also include biomarkers (and molecular results if available) as these determine management of the patient. Sites are reminded to send blocks with slides to BC Cancer to avoid delays.

### New Placenta SIG

A new Special Interest Group (SIG) was created with a focus on placenta pathology. First virtual meeting was on November 21 which was attended by 19 pathologists. Any pathologists interested in joining are encouraged to message Brigette Rabel.

- *The Provincial Anatomical Pathology Advisory Committee is made up of 23 members including medical, technical and operational representation from all health authorities, PLMS and the MoH. The committee is co-chaired by Dr. Lik Hang Lee (PLMS Medical Lead for AP) and Brigette Rabel (PLMS Discipline Lead for AP).*
- *The committee was created in the Fall of 2022 to support the implementation of the provincial mandate of Provincial Laboratory Medicine Services (PLMS), which is to ensure that clinical laboratory diagnostics are quality driven, achieve excellent clinical outcomes, and remain sustainable by being provided effectively and efficiently.*
- *The committee works with PLMS, the Health Authorities, private laboratory partners, and the Ministry of Health (MoH), by providing discipline specific clinical, technical, and operational leadership; and providing advice/expertise on provincial guidelines, policies, and discipline strategic planning.*
- *The committee will provide advice and guidance, will foster engagement and act as change management champions for discipline specific quality*

## New Provincial Outpatient AP Requisition

The AP Advisory Committee is working on a provincial outpatient requisition for AP specimens. Similar to the provincial lab requisition, the requisition will require approval by the Ministry of Health. Once this is finalized, clinicians across the province can be directed to the PLMS website (coming soon!) to download a copy of the requisition.

## Block and Slide Retention Guidelines

The committee updated the Block and Slide Retention Guidelines to align with current CAP-ACP Recommendations.

Changes include:

- Cytology negative slides – changed from 7 years to 5 years
- Autopsy blocks and slides – changed from 20 years to 10 years

## Certification Routes for MLT's

New certification routes are coming in 2025 for technologists from CAP-ACP:  
[https://www.cap-acp.org/New\\_certification\\_routes\\_2025.php](https://www.cap-acp.org/New_certification_routes_2025.php)

## Ongoing Projects

Ongoing work by the AP Advisory committee includes:

- Supporting UBC's efforts in creating a training program for Pathologists' Assistants
- Supporting the provincial special interest groups
- Supporting increased inter-hospital collaborations for providing ancillary tests, including immunohistochemistry and molecular testing. Integral to this would be improvements to the courier systems.
- Developing autopsy proficiency guidelines
- The Ministry of Health began releasing AP results online to patients via Health Gateway in May 2022, with a 7-day delay from report sign out. The committee is working with the MoH to suppress specific reports that may contain sensitive material for some patients e.g. products of conception with descriptions of fetal parts.
- Creation of a central repository for provincial pathology testing guidelines.

*improvement, innovation and optimization opportunities.*

- *The committee objectives will align with the PLMS purpose to lead innovative, high quality laboratory services that improve the health of B.C. citizens by helping providers and citizens make timely and insightful decisions regarding patient care.*

### Questions or Comments?

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