

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

New PLMS Website

PLMS launched a new website phsa.ca/plms. The new website replaces the [LM Labs](#) site and the former [Lab Agency](#) site, though these will remain active during the transition to the new site.

Features of the new site include:

1. **News, Announcement & Policies:** Stay up-to-date with PLMS news and bulletins.
2. **About Us:** Reference our mandate, core lines of business, and links connecting to each of you, as our provincial laboratory partners within each health authority and our private laboratory service providers.
3. **Laboratory Administration:** Find information and forms related to our obligations to delivering laboratory services under the Laboratory Services Act.
4. **For Patients:** Supports the patient's interaction with the laboratory system, including links to their local laboratory website and booking appointments.

Careers: Find current laboratory job opportunities at PHSA and access information about laboratory leadership roles and hard-to-recruit positions across BC. If you have roles that you would like PLMS to share, please reach out to the email under [About > Contact Us](#).

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 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.

New Provincial Outpatient AP Requisition

The AP Advisory Committee created a new provincial outpatient requisition for AP specimens. The requisition has been approved by the PLMS Requisitions team and was forwarded to the Ministry for endorsement. Next, the committee will work on rolling out the new req and communicating to all stakeholders.

Questions or Comments?

Send to:

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New Synoptic Report for Placenta

- A new checklist has been developed by Dr. Jonathan Bush, with consultation from pathologists at BC Children's Hospital.
- Prior to deployment to all sites on January 18, 2024, the checklist was in use at BCCH for 2 years.
- The Placenta Special Interest Group (SIG) will make improvements to the Placenta checklist with feedback from pathologists and clinicians

Using the checklist for reporting placenta will allow collection of discrete data related to placental pathology. Perinatal Services BC collects data in the BC Perinatal Data Registry (BCPDR), but placenta data is currently not included. Integrating discrete placenta data into the BCPDR is anticipated to enhance maternal care, improve long-term health outcomes, provide better care for infants, and optimize resource allocation.

Ancillary Testing

An Immunohistochemistry Working Group is set to be established for the purpose of coordinating ancillary testing in BC. This group's initial effort will be to develop a comprehensive master list of Immunohistochemistry procedures performed in BC.

CME Credits for SIG Participation

Participation in the Provincial Pathology Special Interest Groups (SIGs) is now accredited as a self-approved group learning activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. At the end of the year, the committee will issue certificates of attendance for pathologists who participated in any of the SIG meetings.

Couriers

The committee is learning about the specimen courier experience in our AP labs. Committee members are sharing information on how material is processed at each site and where the delays exist. Once we understand where the issues exist, we can work to improve the courier system.

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 (SIG's)
- 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.