

## TEST GUIDE INFORMATION for ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY SERVICE

The Auckland DHB Anatomic Pathology Service (APS) provides community referred histology, cytology and cervical cytology (ThinPrep®) services for the greater Auckland region. Testing not performed at our laboratory in Mt. Wellington is sent to the Auckland reference laboratory LabPlus at Auckland City Hospital.

### Collection Service and Courier Pick Ups

- Patients can drop off cytology sputum and cytology urine samples to any Labtests collection centre.
- When samples collected at your clinic or practice require payment, please collect payment from the patient and write "Charge to Practice" on the request form. APS will send your practice a one off invoice.  
**Telephone 302 0516 for current test prices.**
- Labtests couriers collect APS histology and cytology samples from practices and clinics, either at a regular scheduled time or 'on request'.
- Place histology and cytology samples for APS into the blue APS specimen pick up box.
- Call APS on **302 0516** if a specimen pick up is required outside your regular scheduled time/day.

### Specimen Labelling

Specimen containers should be labelled immediately after sample collection and, if possible, in front of the patient.

Specimen container labels must have a MINIMUM of two patient identifiers:

- **Patient Family Name & First Name**
- **Patient NHI number and / or DOB and "Date" & "Time" of sample collection.**

Histology sample labels must have all of the above, plus:

- **Doctor/Surgeon name**
- **Type of sample or site sample taken from.**

## CYTOLOGY

The APS Cytology Department processes gynaecological and non-gynaecological samples.

### Gynaecological Samples

- APS processes ThinPrep® samples as per the Ministry of Health requirements, with all smear results entered automatically into the National Cervical Screening Programme (NCSP) register, unless the woman withdraws from the register.
- ThinPrep® is a liquid based method and is used for cytology screening and for HPV testing, if requested. HPV testing is funded for women who meet the NCSP Guidelines.

#### Sample Collection

- Take the smear using the most clinically appropriate device, then vigorously rinse the device in the PreservCyt solution vial by swirling ten times or pushing the device up against the vial wall.
- Discard the device and tighten the vial cap firmly to ensure no leakage.
- Place the vial into a biohazard bag with the completed request form in the side pocket.

### Non-Gynaecological Samples

Most fluid samples, such as bronchial specimens or serous or cyst fluids must be received at our Cytology laboratory as soon as possible after sample collection to ensure optimal cell preservation.

**Please contact APS on 302 0516 if you have any queries.**

## **Fine Needle Aspirate (FNA)**

### **On Site at Mt. Wellington:**

APS operates a clinic every day, Monday to Friday, at the Labtests collection centre, 31 – 47 Carbine Road, Mt. Wellington.

Call **639 0212** to make an appointment.

### **Off Site at Clinics:**

Prior consultation with the cytology laboratory is advised and every effort is made to provide technical and professional assistance, which includes assisting with the sample collection at the clinic.

Call **639 0212** for assistance or to make an appointment for a technologist to attend.

## **Sputum for Cytology:**

- **Three** early morning samples collected on **three** consecutive days is preferred.
- The sample must be from a deep cough, saliva is not suitable.
- Date and time of sample collection must be written on each container label.
- Each sample must be delivered to a Labtests Collection Centre as soon as possible following sample collection.

## **Urine for Cytology:**

- **Three** samples collected on **three** different days.
- A minimum of 50mL of urine is required and the sample must be mid-morning, not early morning.
- The samples must be delivered to a Labtests collection centre on the same day as collection.
- Refrigerate the samples if a delay in delivery is anticipated

## **HISTOLOGY**

### **Fresh Samples for Histology:**

Most histology samples are transported in pots containing 10% formalin, however, some histology samples need to be sent 'fresh' to the laboratory, ie., not contained in formalin.

### **Frozen Sections:**

Private hospitals and clinics regularly collecting a sample for a frozen section procedure are provided with specific site instructions for booking the procedure and sample transport.

***Bookings are made by calling APS Histology 639 0212.***

### **Other Fresh Samples Include:**

- Acetylcholinesterase
- Direct Immunofluorescence
- Disaccharides
- Enzyme assay
- Iron Studies in Tissue
- Lymph nodes for Lymphoma
- Imprints or Cell Marker studies (Histology only)
- Tissue for Culture and Histology
- Karyotyping / Cytogenetics
- Chromosomal Analysis

***Please contact the Histology department, 639 0212, to arrange transport to the laboratory.***