PLMS Discipline Committees
Issue #4

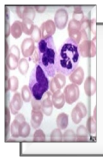
PROVINCIAL LABORATORY MEDICINE SERVICES
Provincial Health Services Authority

PLMS Discipline Advisory Committees

Newsletter

The purpose of this quarterly newsletter is to provide Laboratory Operations with updates from the PLMS Discipline Advisory Committees

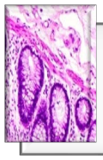
Biochemistry
- Katie Monai
- Dr. Michael Chen



Hematology
- Lorraine Liu
- Dr. Nadia Medvedev

Medical Microbiology
- Hope Byrne
- Dr. David Goldfarb

Transfusion Medicine
- Kristin Rosinski
- Dr. Doug Morrison



Anatomical Pathology
- Brigette Rabel
- Dr. Lik Hang Lee

Genetics Genomics
- May He
- Medical Lead *(Vacant)*

Biochemistry

Celiac Disease Testing Algorithm

- Adult celiac disease testing algorithm is complete and has been circulated to advisory committee members for local distribution. The algorithm will standardize testing and improve test utilization across the province.

Medical Peer Review

- Starting September 2024, interesting and complex medical cases will be shared with the BC Association of Laboratory Physicians, including MBAC members. Participants will review the cases and answer questions in order to support ongoing education and satisfy accreditation standards.

Hematology

Lupus anticoagulant (LA) testing standardization

- When investigating potential lupus anticoagulant cases, diagnostic algorithm should correlate clinical information with lab values and other ancillary testing to avoid misdiagnosis. In combination with the lab values from the in vivo and in vitro cases where the pattern of having a prolonged PTT LA sensitive reagent with a shorter PTT Lupus insensitive reagent may arise in at least three different clinical scenarios:
    1. Factor 8 deficiency

- *The **PLMS Advisory Committees** have medical, technical and operational representation from all health authorities, the PLMS and the MoH.*
- *The **Committees** were created 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 **Committees** work 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 **Committees** will provide advice and guidance, will foster engagement and act as change management champions for discipline specific*

2. Antiphospholipid dependent inhibitor or Lupus anticoagulant
3. Acquired Hemophilia A

- Final recommendation published on PLMS website.

Flow Cytometry education & training

- A set of 6 standardized Flow Cytometry technologist training modules is in development, with both technical and medical contribution.
- First three modules' content (Introduction to Flow Cytometry, Instrument overview, Sample Processing) currently under final review:
  - Module 1: Introduction to Flow Cytometry live presentation presented on July 9th, 2024
- Final three modules (Compensation, Gating strategies and QA/QC) being constructed by working groups.

BM Synoptic Reporting Initiative

- Synoptic reporting for BM case may offer opportunities to improves accuracy and completeness of relevant data. PHAC is developing strategies to develop evidence-based recommendations to standardize the basic components of a synoptic report template for bone marrow samples. A framework for bone marrow synoptic reporting will likely improve completeness of the final report in a manner that is clear, succinct, and consistent among different facilities.
- Project commencing with work group early fall

Medical Microbiology

Galactomannan Testing Criteria

- Standard testing criteria has been developed for Galactomannan testing performed by BCCH lab. Galactomannan testing must be approved by a medical microbiologist using the standard testing criteria. This process will ensure appropriate utilization and equitable patient care.

MSP Schedule Revisions

- Recommendations to the MoH from the post-implementation review of Chlamydia trachomatis, Gonorrhea, and Trichomonas vaginalis NAAT have been endorsed. The MSP payment schedule revisions went live April 1, 2024.

BD BACTEC Blood Culture Bottle Shortage

- Impacted committee members, in collaboration with PHSA supply chain, identified mitigation strategies to the current shortage of BD BACTEC blood culture bottles. Several strategies were identified to ensure continuity of care.

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.*

Transfusion Medicine

Green Phase Advisory – O Negative Red Cells

June 19, 2024 a National Green Phase Advisory began for O-Negative Red Cells. The BC Emergency Blood Management Committee was convened early in the shortage. On July 10, 2024, the Advisory shifted to Recovery Phase – meaning, a slow, cautious progression back to normal inventory was required from all Health Authorities. July 17, 2024, we shifted back to Normal Green, with virtually no impact on BC hospital TM labs over the 4 week period.

PBCO / CBS 25th Annual Education Day

This year marks 25 years of PBCO/CBS Education Day! This year's event will be located at the Executive Plaza Hotel in Coquitlam, on September 27th, 8am to 4pm. Registration is open until September 13th.

Glassia Implementation – B.C.

BC delayed the implementation of a new Alpha-1 Proteinase Inhibitor, following the announcement by Canadian Blood Services for this new blood product on January 22, 2024. Nationally, implementation was planned for the end of February, however B.C. chose to delay implementation to ensure hospital sites would have sufficient time to build LIS / HIS requirements, develop internal procedures and workflows and processes. PBCO supported this initiative by chairing a working group, developing processes related to informed consent, adverse event reporting and discarded and expired products. The BC Guidance document is posted on pbco.ca, along with templates and a Frequently Asked Questions document. The implementation date for B.C. was scheduled for July 15, 2024, at which time hospitals could expect the initiation of patient pick ups, infusions for ambulatory care patients within the hospital, and inpatients who may require this product.

PBCO Ig Funding Letters

The annual funding letters have been drafted, be on the lookout to receive this year's letter soon. Reminder to please share the expectations and reporting requirements with the TM staff overseeing the Blood Product Request Portal application and entries.

Anatomical Pathology

New AP Requisition

The AP Advisory Committee has developed a new provincial outpatient requisition for AP specimens. This requisition has been approved by the PLMS Requisitions team and endorsed by the Ministry of Health. It will be available on both the PLMS website and the health authority websites. Additionally, the committee is creating a communications plan to inform as many clinicians as possible about this new requisition.

The Hub

Cancer treatment is continually evolving, with many therapies depending on the results of AP biomarker and genomic testing. However, some pathologists in BC are unaware of the tests required by oncologists, leading to late orders and delays in treatment. While subspecialist pathologists at major centers are up-to-date on testing requirements, there is a communication gap with pathologists in community hospitals across BC.

To address this issue, the Provincial AP Advisory Committee plans to create an **online hub with tumour-specific testing guidelines**. This hub will provide pathologists across the province with easy access to the latest testing guidelines for various tumour types. The guidelines are being developed by the SIG leads in consultation with oncologists and tumour groups.

Genetics/Genomics

MSP Schedule Revisions

Effective June 29, 2024, the Lab Services Outpatient Payment Schedule is amended as follows:

- Remove the provisional status from the fee items P93051 (Cytogenetic analysis/FISH, single probe), P93053 (Cytogenetic analysis/FISH, uncultured amniotic fluid).
- Remove fee item P93052 (Cytogenetic analysis / FISH, subtelomeric probe) and its corresponding notes.

The Current State of Genomics Testing

With the rapid advancement of technology and expanded clinical utility, the Committee has started a series of presentations to gain insights into the current state of genomics testing used in different settings of patient care. Genomic testing capacity is built on multiple system elements, including but not limited to informatics, capital, data policies and infrastructures, HHR, education, etc. These are foundational to build the genomic testing assets that is being gathered to inform the current understanding.

Congress 2024 Overview — bcsls