

Provincial Laboratory Services



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Health PEI
One Island Health System

Collection of Bone Marrow Samples on Fridays/Day Before Holiday July 7, 2022

This information applies to: PEI Oncologists / Internists

Ancillary testing (flow cytometric analysis, molecular testing and cytogenetic analysis) of the bone marrow is frequently critical to establishing a hematopathologic diagnosis, particularly in cases of (suspected) acute leukemia and myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS).

All of this testing must be sent to highly specialized laboratories off-Island, and much of it is extremely time sensitive (it must arrive at its destination within 24 hours of collection). For this reason, it cannot be collected on Friday (the day before the weekend) or a day before a holiday (either in PEI or in the province where the testing is being sent).

Similarly, bone marrow samples collected on Fridays / the day before a holiday are subject to different processing patterns (owing to staff availability), and this can lead to failure of in situ hybridization (ISH) stains (kappa and lambda). These stains are often critical to the diagnosis of plasma cell neoplasms.

Please be aware of these limitations when considering scheduling bone marrow sampling procedures for Friday / the day before a holiday (summarized below).

ANALYSIS	CONSEQUENCE IF COLLECTED ON FRIDAY / DAY BEFORE HOLIDAY
Flow cytometric analysis	Cannot be performed
Cytogenetic analysis	Cannot be performed
Kappa ISH staining	Stain failure
Lambda ISH staining	Stain failure

For more information, please contact:

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