

Paula Brisotto

From: Allan McNevin
Sent: Monday, 8 August 2016 8:44 AM
To: Abigail Houlding; Allan McNevin; Chelsea Savage; Cindy Chang; Janine Seymour-Murray; Margaret Brian; Sharon Byrne; Valerie Caldwell
Cc: Paula Brisotto; Emma Caunt; Kylie Rika
Subject: Change in process - Sperm micro negative samples

Importance: High

Good morning team,

Due to concerns and identified potential risks associated with the possibility of missing semen with current ER processes, we are making a minor change to processes effective immediately.

Please note that this change in process is being done to mitigate against the above risk, as well as buy us time to further investigate the current process and develop / test potential process improvements. Please also note that this has arisen, not because of concerns around your ability to follow correct procedure or identify spermatozoa or any similar problem, but rather that the process that was put in place at a time when verifications / validations were new to the department and that we were not fully cognizant of the limitations or risks associated with the said process.

The change

The change is around the examination for semen / spermatozoa, and relates to all examinations including but not limited to SAIK swabs, fabric scrapings etc. There are some minor exceptions to current processes

Exception #1 Samples that are micro negative for sperm and AP negative are to be submitted for Differential Lysis extraction

Exception #2 Samples that are micro negative for sperm and AP positive, P30 negative are to be submitted for Differential Lysis extraction

Additional process change

All samples from exceptions #1 & #2 above, as well as any other samples that are micro negative for sperm (e.g. Micro Neg, AP pos, p30 pos) are to have the Diff Lysis slide read as a matter of course. In order to facilitate this additional process, any micro neg sample that is submitted for Diff, please add to the whiteboard part of the roster noting the date submitted so that we can routinely work our way through the diff lysis slides.

Impact on EXH's used

In the instances noted above, where there are no sperm seen on microscopy and the sample is being submitted for differential lysis (and will therefore have a diff slide read), please use the presumptive EXH line "Submitted – results pending" and then, after reading the diff slide we can then use any of the following lines as appropriate "Presump. PSA test positive, no sperm found"; "Semen not detected"; "Micro positive for sperm. Submitted-Results pending" or "micro neg for sperm"

I am not sure how much extra work the additional diff lysis slide reading will be, and as you are all aware, this is very much item dependant. I will of course be monitoring this and discussing any resourcing issues with Paula should they arise. If you have any questions or concerns, please come and see me.

Allan McNevin

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 Forensic and Scientific Services | Health Support Queensland
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