

DATE:	8 June 2026
TO:	All Zones: All Physicians, Nurses, Laboratory Services Staff
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories – Anatomic Pathology
RE:	New AP Procedure for Handling Products of Conception/Fetus Less Than 20 Weeks

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Autopsy consent is now required for all products of conception(POC)/fetus less than 20 weeks if an examination of fetus/fetal parts is required.

Background

- Any form of examination of fetus/fetal parts requires an autopsy consent form.
- If the family requests participation in the Hospital Burial Program (where available) and no examination of fetal tissue or fetal parts is required, autopsy consent is not required.

Action Required

- Review and follow directions as outlined in the APL Website and Test Directory:
 - Fetal Autopsy/Fetus Tissue | Alberta Precision Laboratories
<https://www.albertaprecisionlabs.ca/hp/Page13872.aspx>
 - APL Test Directory
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/webapps/labservices/indexAPL.asp?id=8920&tests=&zoneid=1&details=true>
- Complete the following form if examination of fetus/fetal parts is required: [Autopsy Consent and Consultation Request](#)

Effective **Immediately**

Questions/Concerns

- Inquiries related to Connect Care workflows can be directed to** CMIO-TrainingTeam@albertahealthservices.ca
- North/Edmonton Zones:** Dr Joseph Andrews, Pediatric/Perinatal SG Co-lead, North Sector, joseph.andrews@albertaprecisionlabs.ca
- Calgary/South Zones:** Dr Elaine Chan, Pediatric/Perinatal SG Co-lead, South Sector, elaine.chan@albertaprecisionlabs.ca
- All other general laboratory inquiries can be directed to APL Provincial contact:** 1-877-868-6848

Approved by

- Dr. Michael Mengel, North Sector Medical Director, APL
- Dr. Kate O'Connor, South Sector Medical Director, APL