

August 3, 2020

Re: Modifications to **Paraffin FISH** turn-a-round time and specimen requirements

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to inform you of two service modifications impacting our paraffin FISH assays. The changes are effective immediately and are necessary due to the impacts of COVID-19. We will continue to monitor our performance and capability regularly. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any concerns about our performance or if clinical need becomes emergent.

The first modification concerns the specimen requirements for submission of paraffin embedded tissues for FISH studies. Hematologies will no longer accept paraffin blocks for FISH studies. Rather, we will require all paraffin FISH studies be submitted as cut sections (4 μ) mounted on slides. A representative H&E stain of the cut sections must also accompany the sections submitted for FISH. Without, we will reach out to your institution to request an H&E but testing will necessarily be delayed. Decalcified tissues will no longer be accepted for FISH studies. Cut sections of decalcified tissues will be returned to you without further processing. It should also be noted that highly necrotic tissues, as determined by Hematologies' pathologist review of the provided H&E, will not be processed for FISH and the sections returned.

The second concern is turn-a-round time. Our paraffin FISH TAT will be extended to three to seven days (3 – 7 days) for the foreseeable future. We acknowledge an increased TAT may impact patient care and we request that you reach out via phone or by email to Client Services (clientservices@hematologies.com) should you have an emergent case or need. We will work with you to address the need and provide you the critical information required for patient care.

A summary of modifications to our Paraffin FISH service:

- Paraffin blocks will no longer be accepted
- Submit all paraffin FISH studies on slide mounted cut sections
- Decalcified tissues will no longer be accepted
- Highly necrotic tissues will be failed and not processed for FISH studies
- TAT for paraffin FISH is 3 – 7 days

I can be reached at the phone numbers below or via email at wayne@hematologies.com should you have any questions or concerns about the modifications to our paraffin FISH service.

We are committed to providing high quality patient care and thank you for your support.

Wayne Fritschle
Chief Operating Officer