

## **Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) and the Health Sciences Association of Alberta (HSAA)**

This classification specification identifies representative duties and responsibilities, and is intended to assist in the determination of the appropriate classification level within each discipline. Some duties and responsibilities may overlap between class levels. The classification specification is not intended to provide an exhaustive list of all duties performed.

Classification Title: **Pathologists' Assistant I**

### **Job Summary:**

The Pathologists' Assistant I is a working level position responsible for preparing specimens for fixation, and performing gross examination (describing, dissecting and documenting) for all levels of tissue specimens and samples, in preparation for specimen processing and review by the Pathologist. The work of the Pathologists' Assistant I informs the diagnosis, staging and grading of diseases.

In addition, the Pathologists' Assistant I may be responsible for performing post-mortem eviscerations and selecting autopsy tissues for testing.

### **Key Responsibilities and Typical Duties:**

#### **Core Duties**

- Performs gross examination of specialized tissues (i.e. colon, brain, bone) and complex tissue specimens (i.e. mastectomy with regional lymph nodes, tongue with tumor tissues).
- Facilitates the assessment of sample packaging and condition upon arrival and detects issues with the sample (e.g. missing orientation markers).
- Reviews patient clinical information (e.g. surgical reports, imaging, pathology, and oncology history) to inform the gross examination.
- Receives, reviews, cuts and inks fresh specimens and prepares them for fixation.
- Photographs and maps specimens to ensure clear documentation of specimen landmarks in relation to one another.
- Describes and documents surgical tissue dissections using the Laboratory Information System (LIS).
- Performs tumor banking and ancillary testing related to clinical trials.

#### **Other Related Duties**

- Performs post-mortem evisceration including gross dissection of major organ systems.
- Prepares decedent for viewing.
- Maintains accurate and up-to-date records regarding quality control.
- Monitors inventory of supplies and equipment.

### **Leadership**

- Provides collegial/functional guidance to staff and students.
- Acts as a resource to laboratory staff and Pathology Residents.
- Assists in orientation and training of Pathologists' Assistant students and Pathology Residents.

### **Decision-Making**

- Determines approach for dissecting specimens to achieve the best quality visualization and sample procurement.
- Reviews autopsy consent forms.
- Resolves unusual or complex cases or consults with the Pathologist for direction.

### **Knowledge:**

#### **Education**

- Master's Degree of Pathologists' Assistant or equivalent combination of education and experience recognized by the Canadian Association of Pathologists for Canadian Certification Council of Pathologists' Assistant (CCCPA).

#### **Registration Requirements**

- Certification with the Canadian Certification Council of Pathologists' Assistants (CCCPA).

### **Working Conditions:**

#### **Physical Demands**

- Walking, bending, lifting and long periods of standing required.
- High degree of prolonged visual attention/concentration required.
- Regularly required to perform repetitive movements.

#### **Work Environment**

- Exposure to blood, bodily fluids, sharp instruments, chemicals and bio-hazardous materials.
- Requires personal protective equipment and/or clothing.