NOTICE OF CHANGE OF SERVICE

Date: 3/23/07

To: Housestaff Physicians, Faculty, Nursing Personnel, Primary Care Network Physicians and Nurses

From: Lydia P. Howell, M.D.
Vice Chair and Director, Anatomic Pathology

Re: Consultation Requests to Pathologists for Fine Needle Aspirations (FNAs)

Effective immediately, a request for consultation by a pathologist is required in order to schedule a patient for an appointment in the Cancer Center FNA clinic. Consultation requests are also required when asking a pathologist to see a patient for an FNA on an in-patient unit, the emergency department, or in another clinic.

In addition, please remember that consultations to pathologists for FNA are for the evaluation of palpable masses (i.e., masses that can be clearly felt on physical exam). FNA of non-palpable masses detectable only on imaging require scheduling through the Dept. of Radiology. We have experienced a large number of patients with non-palpable masses that are mistakenly scheduled in the Cancer Center FNA Clinic. This causes delay and inconvenience to the patient, and prevents patients with palpable masses from receiving more timely appointments in the FNA clinic.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Alaa Afify, Director of Cytopathology (734-7477 or alaa.afify@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu) or me (734-4911 or lydia.howell@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu).

APPROVED BY:

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