



DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES
OF MANITOBA

SERVICES DE DIAGNOSTIC
DU MANITOBA

Diagnostic Services of Manitoba (DSM) is the not-for-profit corporation responsible for all of Manitoba's public laboratory services and rural diagnostic imaging services. More than 1,600 dedicated laboratory, imaging and support staff provide services at over 70 sites located across the province; unified with a shared vision of delivering quality, patient-centred care. Each DSM site is a point of access for patients to a comprehensive range of diagnostic testing in Clinical Biochemistry and Genetics, Hematology, Immunology, Microbiology, Pathology, Transfusion Medicine and Diagnostic Imaging.

DSM's organizational structure is unique in Canada as it assumes a provincial leadership role in medical laboratory and medical imaging services. While working collaboratively with our key partners, DSM provides the framework for the standardization and integration of quality, innovative and collaborative laboratory and diagnostic services across Manitoba.

DSM provides the *Results that Matter* to patients and their physicians everyday. These results are used to diagnose and determine the right treatment plan for Manitobans. DSM laboratories perform more than 14.5 million tests annually.

HER2 Testing

Immunohistochemistry (IHC) testing is important to the modern diagnosis of cancer as it provides valuable details about the protein expression of cancer cells. Although IHC testing is a widely used diagnostic and prognostic tool in many types of cancer, one of the most publicized types of IHC testing relates to the detection of HER2 (human epidermal growth factor receptor 2) in breast cancer patients.

The addition of the new state-of-the-art technology now allows DSM to provide dedicated HER2 testing in Manitoba, eliminating the need to send cases out of province for analysis. This equipment is capable of staining slides to assist pathologists in determining HER2 protein status by IHC for 1200 patients annually. Out of these patients, 400 require additional testing to determine the genetic status of breast cancer cells by using a chromogenic in situ hybridization technology (known as Dual In Situ Hybridization). DSM pathologists will use this cutting edge equipment to detect an overexpression of the HER2 gene found in breast cancers that are often more aggressive and difficult to treat with conventional approaches. Knowing the HER2 status allows clinicians to effectively apply specific additional treatments to target the tumour.

By bringing testing back to Manitoba, result turn around times will be dramatically reduced by up to five weeks. Patients will therefore receive their HER2 test results in approximately one week and ultimately begin their treatment much sooner. Funding for the HER2 diagnostic testing equipment has been provided by Manitoba Health in the amount of \$125,000.00.

DSM Key Partner in Manitoba's Cancer Patient Journey Initiative

The diagnostic testing that DSM provides is integral to the cancer patient's journey from suspicion of cancer to first treatment, making DSM a key partner in Manitoba's Cancer Patient Journey initiative. The testing and analysis that we provide assists physicians to determine the best course of treatment for their patients. Our goal is to reduce test result turn around times and look for innovative ways to advance testing options for Manitobans in partnership with our key stakeholders.



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Diagnostic Services of Manitoba's vision is to create a patient-first environment that provides quality laboratory and diagnostic imaging services supporting the health care needs of all Manitobans.

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