

# SURGICAL PATHOLOGY SPECIMEN COLLECTION GUIDE

Specimens must be labeled with two patient identifiers i.e. patient full name and DOB – specimens without two identifiers will be delayed until two identifiers are present. Specimens must be accompanied by a valid order in Epic or a completed requisition (outside of Epic- information on requisition must match specimen label).

## FIXED SPECIMEN (FOR ROUTINE PROCESSING)

Tissue is placed in 10% neutral buffered formalin immediately upon removal. Select the appropriate sized formalin vial (15 to 20 times the volume of tissue). Fasten lid securely to prevent leakage.

- Formalin storage and transport temperature: 15-30°C

## FRESH SPECIMEN

A fresh specimen must arrive without fixative in an empty specimen cup, saline, empty biohazard bag or wrapped in saline soaked gauze. If a fresh specimen is not going to be immediately transported to the laboratory, it must be refrigerated (2-8°C). If there are transport issues associated with a fresh specimen, please contact the laboratory.

The following specimens must be sent to the laboratory FRESH (without fixative):

- Hardware/Foreign bodies (empty biohazard bag or empty specimen cup)
- Kidney biopsy for renal analysis (saline)
- Large specimens i.e. amputations (biohazard bag)
- Lymphoid tissue/lymph node – if diagnosis is suspicious for lymphoma/leukemia, submit fresh for flow cytometry (saline or saline soaked gauze or RPMI/Hank's solution)
  - o RPMI storage and transport temperature: ambient; specimen stability: 4 days refrigerated (preferred) or ambient
- Mammography guided needle localization (see Breast Specimen below)
- Muscle biopsy – contact laboratory prior to collection
- OB/GYN specimens collected in MCH i.e. placenta and fallopian tubes (formalin not available in MCH; placentas/fallopian tubes collected in the OR are submitted in formalin)
  - o placenta for storage (empty specimen container within a biohazard bag labeled with collection date)
  - o placenta/fallopian tubes for exam - (empty specimen container labeled with green FOR PATHOLOGY EXAM sticker)
- Products of conception/fetus < 20 weeks – if chromosome analysis is desired, submit fresh – **Mayo Clinic Informed Consent for Genetic Testing form** required
- Renal calculi (empty specimen cup)
- Skin for direct immunofluorescence (see Skin below)
- Tissue for intraoperative consultation (refer to Intraoperative Consultation)

## **BREAST SPECIMEN**

Breast specimens must be placed in 10% neutral buffered formalin immediately upon removal; EXCEPTION- needle localization specimens are sent fresh to radiology prior to arriving in pathology. Cold ischemic time MUST be documented in Epic.

## **SKIN – DIRECT IMMUNOFLUORESCENCE (DIF)**

Submit tissue fresh (saline soaked gauze) or in Michel's fixative (refer to Direct Immunofluorescence – FITC). DIF is unable to be performed on formalin fixed tissue.

- Michel's storage and transport temperature: room temperature; specimen stability: 5 days.