

Submission of Routine Histology Tissue:

Unit Code: 801

Performed: Monday-Friday, excluding legal and national holidays

Turnaround Time: 24 to 48 hours, depending if special studies are required

Collection and Transportation:

Specimen containers should be labeled completely with patient information, collection site, date and physician's name. When multiple specimens are to be examined and diagnosed individually, each specimen must be submitted in a separate container completely labeled as indicated above. As a general rule, specimens should be placed in buffered formalin within approximately ten minutes of their removal from the patient. The volume of formalin is ideally twenty times that of the specimen, but for very large specimens this may be reduced to ten times the volume of the specimen. Very small specimens should be placed in formalin almost immediately (within one or two minutes depending on the size), otherwise marked drying artifacts will occur. Larger specimens with a high fat content, which float, should be covered within a few layers of paper towels to allow formalin to reach the upper surface of the specimen. The container obviously must be able to accommodate the specimen plus many times its volume in formalin. The specimens should fit through the opening of the container with ease. Specimens which seem to require only minor bending or folding to slip through the mouth of the container become hard following fixation and sometimes require destruction of the container for removal. After proper collection of the specimen, it can be placed in the designated area for the Doctors Laboratory courier pick up. It will be taken to the laboratory and grossed according to procedure.

Special Instructions:

The requisition should be properly filled out with the following information:

- patient complete name, age, date of birth, and collection date,
- insurance information,
- side and source of tissue,
- ICD-9 codes with pertinent clinical information.

Causes for rejection of specimens or limited report:

- incomplete and/or improper labeling of requisitions and/or specimen containers,
- names on container and requisition do not match,
- sites on container and requisition do not match
- missing specimens

CPT Code: 88302, 88304, 88305

Submission of Complex Tissue Specimens:

Frozen Specimens, Mastectomy, Hysterectomy, Cones or Leeps, Bowel Resections, Extremities, Products of Conception (POC's) and fetuses.

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Collection and Transportation of Frozen Specimens:

Frozen specimens are specimens cut and stained for a rapid diagnosis at the hospital or private facility. This is preformed by a Pathologist employed by Doctors Laboratory Inc. The hospital or facility is responsible in notifying Doctors Laboratory that a frozen is needed on the specimen of choice. The pathologist, assisted by a Histologist, will submit the frozen specimen and diagnose accordingly. Once the diagnosis is complete the specimen will be transferred to the appropriate cassette and placed in 10% neutral buffered formalin. Any remaining specimen will be dissected by the pathologist and submitted into corresponding cassettes.

CPT Code: 88331, 88332

Collection and Transportation of Mastectomy or Biopsy Breast Tissue:

Breast tissue should be placed into a large container, depending on the specimen source, (ex; bxs, mastectomies, lumpectomies, etc), and covered with an adequate amount of formalin (10x the tissues volume) to provide maximum fixation. Some breast excisions may include radioactive material. To ensure that all of the radiation has dissipated before the specimen is processed, the specimen should be retained in the operating room or surgical specimen room for a 48 hour period after the specimen is removed. After the 48 hour period the specimen can be grossed by the on call pathologist and processed in the normal manner.

CPT Code: 88309

Collection and Transportation of Hysterectomy Specimens:

Hysterectomy specimens should be placed into a large container and covered with an adequate amount of formalin (10x the tissues volume) to provide maximum fixation. To help in expediting the fixation rate or when the uterus will be left to sit overnight and not processed the same day (ex; weekends or holidays) at Valdosta, the surgeon should consider splitting the specimen into anterior and posterior halves and not simply opening anteriorly. If a forcep is placed in the os, then a scalpel or some other blade can be placed between the forceps so that the entire cut will be in the plane of the endocervical and endometrial cavities. Opening the specimen in a proper manner is most important when there is any suspicion of endometrial hyperplasia or carcinoma. During regular working hours a Doctors Laboratory pathologist will assist in any dissection of the uterus at the surgeons wish.

CPT Code: 88307

Collection and Transportation of Bowel and Bowel Resections:

Bowel resections should be placed into a large container and covered with an adequate amount of formalin (10x the tissues volume) to provide maximum fixation. We generally prefer that segments of bowel be left unopened, in formalin. In an unusual situation, such as over a weekend or during holiday breaks, where processing is likely to be delayed, the specimen may be opened with scissors along the antimesenteric border. Particular care should be taken not to cut through tumor. In the case of a tumor which involves the entire

Instructions for Submitting Tissue Specimens to Histology

circumference of the bowel, the bowel wall should be cut up to the tumor from either direction, but final dissection should be left up to the pathologist.

CPT Code: 88307

Collection and Transportation of Extremities:

If the specimen is too large for a container, the specimen should be placed into two biohazard bags, labeled on the outside with the patient's name, facility name, and source of the tissue. At this time the specimen may be placed in a cardboard box, again with the patient's name, facility name and source of tissue written or labeled on the box. The requisition should be placed in a small biohazard bag and attached to the box or specimen bag. At this time, the Doctors Laboratory scheduled courier may pick the specimen up and place in the courier refrigerator to be processed by the on call pathologist.

CPT Code: 88307

Collection and Transportation of Products of Conception (POC's) and fetuses:

Specimens of this nature should be submitted in formalin (if Cytogenetic studies are not requested) with proper identification on the container, which includes patient name and type of specimen.

CPT Code: 88307

Specimens submitted in special fixative for testing outside the Histology Laboratory or Doctors Laboratory Inc.

Kidney or Renal biopsies for Electron Microscopy:

These specimens should be submitted in Michele's fixative 1:30 times is volume. The specimen containers should be marked appropriately with the patient's name, site and name of fixative. A complete patient history should accompany the specimen, along with any vital patient information or special instructions.

CPT Code: 88348

Breast tissue for Her2neu studies:

Specimens should be received into the lab under instructions for collection and submission of mastectomies and biopsy breast tissue. These specimens should be in formalin for fixation for no longer than 48 hours (fixation times must be documented). Once processing is complete, H&E slides will be cut by the Histologist and orders then requested by the pathologists. Once the additional slides are done, the block will be sent to ARUP for FISH methodology of Her2neu.

CPT Code: 88365

Products of Conception (POC) and fetuses:

Specimens should be received without fixative. This should be done in a timely matter to ensure no autolysis is present. The container should state all appropriate information, patient name, specimen type, and special instruction, as well as be

Instructions for Submitting Tissue Specimens to Histology

accompanied by a Doctors Laboratory requisition clearly marking Cytogenetic studies are desired. At this time the pathologist for Doctors Laboratory will section the specimen for H&E diagnosis and for Cytogenetics. The Histologist will then take the specimen to the Central Receiving and Processing for special send out instructions.

CPT Code: 88348

Tissue Cultures:

In cases in which microbiological test are required, the specimen should be received without fixative and taken to the microbiology lab. They will complete there testing and return the specimen to the Histology lab, where fixative will be added to the specimen and processed routinely.

CPT Code: 88305

Specimens Submitted for Gross Only or Decalcification

Collection and Transportation of Specimens for Gross Only:

Bone, Bone fragments, hammertoes, bunions, hallux abducto valgus, exostoes (subungual or calcanael), and heel spurs, exostosis.

CPT Code: 88300

Collection and Transportation of Specimens for Decalcification:

Any bone with diagnosis of osteonyoletes, Bone Marrow Biopsies.

CPT Code: 88311