

## ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY SPECIMEN COLLECTION

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Specimens for pathological examination should be submitted in an appropriate container, labeled with patient's name, date of birth and type of specimen. An appropriate quantity of fixative (usually 10% formalin) should be added to the specimen immediately, if not using prefilled containers. Sides of container should be labeled, not covers.

**\*10 % formalin should not be added to specimens requiring special handling. See below.**

<u>SPECIMEN</u>	<u>FIXATIVE</u>
Urinary tract calculi	None
Cervical cone biopsy (from OR)	None
Endoscopy specimens	Formalin
Prostate biopsies	Bouin's solution
Specimens for culture	None. Use sterile container.
Specimens for frozen section And/or touch prep	None. Notify Histology upon arrival or pathologist on call ASAP.
Lymph node for flow cytometry	Saline. Use sterile container. Transport to CVMC Lab ASAP. Notify histology or pathologist on call.
Lymph node for diagnosis of ? lymphoma, or lymphadenopathy	Saline. Call CVMC lab ASAP to notify histology or pathologist on call.
Sentinel node (s)	10% formalin
Axillary dissection (lymph nodes)	10% formalin
Pelvic node dissection	10% formalin

**Any specimen in saline**

Notify Histology or pathologist on call ASAP.

**Any "dry" specimen**

Notify Histology or pathologist on call ASAP.

If there are any questions how to send the specimen to Pathology, please call Histology at extension 4923 (371-4923) or the pathologist on call.

The histology requisition should be completed and the following information is necessary. At least two unique identifiers are required on the requisition and specimen, (i.e. name and date of birth, name and medical record number, etc.)

1. Patient's full name
2. Date of birth
3. Submitting physician and other physician's needing reports
4. Date
5. Preoperative diagnosis
6. Tissue removed
7. Significant clinical history
8. Any special instructions

If the requisition does not have adequate information, the office or submitting department will be called to gather this information.

**SUBOPTIMAL SPECIMENS**

If the specimen is unlabeled, the submitting department or office needs to be called. The specimen is either returned or held for identification and labeling by the originator. An accountability form will be signed by the labeling personnel and will be kept with the pathology requisition.

If the container and/or bag are contaminated, use gloves to remove the container from the bag, place the specimen number label on the container and place the container in a clean bag.

If a specimen is left unfixed or refrigerated without fixative for an extended period of time, notify the on call pathologist for instructions.