

This job aid provides instructions about specimens emanating from the Operating Room and Procedures.

ORDERS

Pathology	Laboratory
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each specimen must be uniquely named, even if collected during the same procedure. Cerner Power plans (search “Pathology”) have frequently used order by specialty: GI Specimens, ENT Specimens, Intraoperative, there are many. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For additional specimens assigned to the same case, an “AP specimen order” sequentially added to that same case, ex/ “Part 2” A la carte orders: When orders are needed that are not in the power plan, use “Pathology Tissue Request” for most tissue orders. “Pathology Non-GYN Cytology Request” for BALs and cytology orders. Specimens that need Pathology AND Laboratory Testing need separate orders for each test. The surgery team MUST separate tissue in the OR and send them in separate containers with separate labels and orders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every lab test must be separately ordered. Orders are found in Cerner Powerplans for specific surgical services, or in “OR Culture and Laboratory Testing Plan” that includes frequently ordered tests. Tests can also be ordered a la carte outside of a power plan. If multiple tests are ordered on the same fluid, tissue, or wound sample(s), all of the labels must be printed and placed in the outer pocket of the biohazard bag. Specimens that need Pathology AND Laboratory Testing need separate orders for each test. The surgery team MUST separate tissue in the OR and send them in separate containers with separate labels and orders.

COLLECTION

Test	Specimen type	Specimen container
Intraoperative exam (Path)	Tissue or fresh liver biopsy	Scant amount of saline in sterile container [^]
Pathology exam	Tissue, routine	10% neutral buffered formalin*
Pathology exam	Suspected tumor	Scant amount of saline in sterile container
Pathology exam	GI biopsy	10% neutral buffered formalin*
Pathology exam	Muscle biopsy	Wrap in saline soaked gauze [^]
Electron microscopy (Path)	Tissue	Glutaraldehyde in the OR specimen refrigerator [^]
Tissue Culture w/ Gram Smear	Tissue biopsies & bone biopsies	Sterile container. Recommend adding scant amount of 0.9% sterile, non-bacteriostatic saline. Or needle-less syringe
Body Fluid Culture w/ Gram Smear	Sterile body fluids (synovial, pleural, pericardial, peritoneal fluids)	
Wound Culture w/ Gram Smear	Aspirated pus, abscess material, deep seated infections, skin lesions	
PCR test (Micro Lab)	Body fluid (synovial fluid, lumbar puncture-collected CSF)	Sterile container or syringe
Culture (Micro Lab)	Mucosal surfaces; examples: nasal, oropharyngeal, GI, vaginal, rectal, etc.	Swab
Body fluid cell count (Core Lab)	Body Fluid (Synovial Fluid, BAL, Pleural, and Peritoneal, Pericardial)	EDTA Lavender Tube
CSF Cell Count (Core Lab)	CSF (Cerebrospinal Fluid)	Sterile container/CSF tube
Glucose and Total Protein	CSF (Cerebrospinal Fluid)	CSF tube

- For specimens requiring multiple tests, the tissue should be separated into proper containers for each test type ordered.
- *Formalin containers are provided by pathology in the yellow cabinet next to OR specimen refrigerator.
- Michel solution, Cytolyt and RPMI are available upon request.
- [^]Contact Pathology at 476-2051 for all intraoperative consults or special specimen pick up.
- Microbiology cultures: Send tissue, pus, fluid. Swabs are **NOT** the preferred, except for when culturing mucosal surfaces.
- Time-sensitive specimens (e.g. CSF) must be delivered immediately to the lab. CSF specimens must be tested within **4 hours** after collection. Specimens received late will not be tested.

LABELING

- Each specimen container must be properly labeled with two unique patient identifiers, sample source and test name.
- The electronic positive patient identification system using bar code technology requires a bar-coded patient identification band and a scanner. [Refer to Specimen Collection by Non-Laboratory Personnel Policy](#)
- Access the patient's electronic medical record; review patient's specimen orders for specimen collection **OR**. Place electronic orders in SurgiNet according to verbal orders from surgeon/proceduralist.
- Identify the correct patient by scanning the patient's barcoded ID band.
- Print labels for all specimen orders or select individual orders to be collected at this time. Compare the identifiers on the printed labels to those on the patient's wristband.
- Collect the specimen(s) in the appropriate tubes/containers. **DO NOT LABEL THE COLLECTION CONTAINERS** until the specimen has been collected.
- Place the corresponding label on each successfully collected sample at the patient's bedside.
- Scan the Accession Label identifier on the specimen label to mark specimen order as "collected"
- Document collection method or add comments as necessary.
- To complete the specimen collection process in the EHR do not forget to click SIGN in the collection module.
- All specimen containers must be labeled with two patient identifiers (name and MRN), anatomic source of specimen (including laterality), time, and date.

TRANSPORT

Ensure that all specimen containers are securely fastened before placing them in biohazard bags and transporting to avoid leakage

Pathology	Laboratory
OR staff places specimens in the OR refrigerator located in room M2540A and records them in the logbook. <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The only EXCEPTION is if pathology staff are directly handed the specimen(s).▪ Pathology staff must check and sign off in the specimen logbook when retrieving specimens from the OR refrigerator.	Staff walks specimens directly to the Lab on Main 2 <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ring the doorbell and enter the laboratory2. Complete the logbook.3. Hand sample directly to lab employee, who signs & dates the logbook

SPECIMEN REJECTION CRITERIA

- Specimen is mislabeled, not labeled or unaccompanied by a complete requisition
- Specimen container is empty, or the quantity is insufficient for testing
- Specimen is collected using expired containers or supplies
- CSF specimen: If clotted, the cell count will be automatically canceled but a differential may still be performed. If specimen is received in the laboratory >24 hours after collection. If hemolyzed, total protein is cancelled.
- Specimen type is inappropriate for culture ordered (e.g. anaerobic culture on a specimen expected to be colonized with anaerobes)

CONTACT

Pathology

- Department: 476-2051 from 7:30 am to 5:30pm
- Anatomic Pathologist On-Call 24/7: 0784 (pager)

Laboratory

- Customer Service: 476- 2226
- Clinical Pathologist (Lab) On-Call 24/7: 53739 (pager) or 602-1872 (Connect Messenger)
- Microbiology Laboratory: 476-8747 is open 24/7
- Microbiology Laboratory Director On-Call 24/7: Available through the hospital paging operator
- Blood Bank: 476-5347
- Transfusion Medicine Physician On-Call 24/7: 53741 (pager) or 602-1869 (Connect Messenger)