

Anatomic Pathology Specimen Priority Guide

Guidance for clinicians: Choose the appropriate priority based on the clinical decision and needed turnaround time (TAT)



Anatomic Pathology Order Priority:

Priority	Expected TAT (business days)	Use when	Examples
STAT	1-3	Needed to facilitate a care management decision that must be made without delay to ensure patient safety	Urgent inpatient biopsy with disposition pending; next-day oncologic or surgical decision; urgent transplant/rejection concern.
Routine	4+	Will not change immediate management.	Most outpatient biopsies, resections, curettings, routine cytology, follow-up in 2-4+ weeks.

Additional Notes:

- **STAT does not bypass biology:** Fixation, processing, decalcification, deeper levels, special stains, IHC, molecular testing, and outside consults can extend turnaround time even when a case is prioritized.
- **Communication prevents misses:** Order priority alone may not alert accessioning, gross room, histology, and pathologist teams in real time. **If same-day triage is required please call (612) 873-3076 to be connected with the on-call pathologist.**

Thank you for choosing the priority that best matches the clinical decision and required turnaround time.