

**PROTOCOL FOR COLLECTION AND SUBMISSION OF SURGICAL  
PATHOLOGY SPECIMENS AND BIOPSIES ORIGINATING  
FROM ANY AREA OF LEXINGTON MEDICAL CENTER**

**REQUISITION TYPES REQUIRED:**

- 1.) OR / Endoscopy / LMC-Irmo Surgery / LMC-Lexington Surgery--- Standard Pathology Requisition and Frozen Section/Gross Consult Form
- 2.) Labor and Delivery—Placenta Requisition or Pathology Specimen Slip
- 3.) Nursing Floors, ED and Radiology—Pathology Specimen Slip

**NURSES' and/or OFFICE STAFF RESPONSIBILITY**

1. The following specimen and specimen types require special handling and/or fixative and should be sent to pathology in the manner listed below:
  - a. All tissue for Frozen section or Gross Consult Should be sent Fresh and rapidly transported to the surgical pathology lab.
  - b. All intestinal biopsies – (esophagus through anus) and respiratory tract biopsies (nose through lungs) – GI Fixative.
  - c. Muscle biopsies – delivered fresh with muscle clamp attached.
  - d. Tissue for culture – Must be sent fresh and in a sterile container
  - e. Breast tissue---delivered fresh ASAP  
  
Breast tissue from LMC-Lexington and LMC-Irmo can be sent in 10%NBF
  - f. Lymph nodes – Should always be sent fresh
  - g. Kidney biopsies – fresh or moistened with normal saline if drying is a hazard.  
(NOTE: Kidney biopsies requiring a Pathologist in attendance should be scheduled in advance of the procedure)

\* If any specimen is to be delivered fresh and is removed after hours (4 p.m. – 7 a.m. Monday through Friday, or on weekends), please the Daily Operations Supervisor of the Laboratory at 936-7180 to ensure proper specimen handling.

2. All other specimens should be sent to pathology in 10% NBF, with the fixative completely submersing the tissue.
  - a. The OR, L&D, and Endoscopy departments are responsible for obtaining Formalin through Central Supply, Endoscopy receives GI-fixative from surgical pathology
  - b. Nursing floors and the ED can call surgical pathology to obtain any supplies necessary for specimen collection

3. All specimens require an accompanying pathology requisition. The requisition should include: patient sticker, surgeon's name, date of procedure, tissue collected, any physicians requiring a copy of the report and a reason for procedure or clinical history. All specimen containers should have a patient sticker on the side and top (if possible).
4. Surgical Pathology does not use a tube so all specimens (with the exception of the OR and Endoscopy, who have a designated area) should be delivered to Surgical Pathology. All specimens delivered after 5:30pm Monday-Friday and on weekends should be delivered to the tube station in the clinical laboratory. There is a designated bucket and sign in log for all after hours specimens.
5. Surgical Pathology specimens do not have to be ordered in the computer in the same manner as clinical specimens (blood, urine, etc).
6. Please call Surgical Pathology with any questions at 791-2404