



## MEMO

**DATE:** November 16, 2005

**TO:** Maria Tracey, Program Director, Surgical Program

**FROM:** Dr. D. Fontaine, Site Chief, Laboratory Medicine Program  
Health Sciences Site

**RE:** **POLICY REGARDING MASTECTOMY SPECIMENS  
AT HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE**

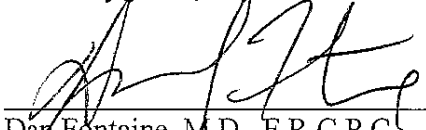
---

All mastectomy specimens must be placed in a large container completely immersed in 10% formalin. The ideal volume of formalin to specimen is 10 to 1. The specimen should then be immediately forwarded to the Pathology Lab where the breast tumor is appropriately sectioned to allow for even permeation and fixation by formalin.

Cases should not be left overnight or over the weekend unsectioned as this may interfere with proper fixation of tissue. For cases that occur after normal working hours the Pathologist on call should be notified. First an attempt to page the individual and then to call them at home using the Call Sheet. If this is still unsuccessful the Clinical Chief of Laboratory Medicine Program should be notified.

Please make every attempt to ensure the cases are done early in the day and submitted to the Laboratory before 4 p.m.

Sincerely yours,



\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Fontaine, M.D., F.R.C.P.C.  
Site Chief, Laboratory Medicine Program  
Health Sciences Site

/tc

### General Hospital

Health Science Centre, 300 Prince Philip Drive, St. John's, NL, Canada A1B 3V6 Tel. (709) 777-6300 Fax (709) 777-6400  
Website: [www.hccsj.nf.ca](http://www.hccsj.nf.ca)

SITES: Health Sciences Centre (General Hospital/Janeway Children's Health and Rehabilitation Centre/Women's Health Centre)  
Dr. Leonard A. Miller Centre • St. Clare's Mercy Hospital • Dr. Walter Templeman Health Centre • Waterford Hospital