

HEALTH CARE CORPORATION OF ST. JOHN'S  
PERIOPERATIVE PROGRAM  
OPERATING ROOM POLICY MANUAL  
ISSUING AUTHORITY:

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## GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF SPECIMENS

### SPECIMENS FOR PATHOLOGY

1. Routine pathology specimens are brought to:
  - (a) designated area in Day Surgery
  - (b) front desk cart at General main O.R.
  - (c) frozen section room at St. Clare's O.R.

where they are transported to the Pathology Department throughout the day.
2. Specimens for frozen section are brought to the pathology room in the O.R. area by the pathologist and/or a circulating nurse.
3. Record all pathology specimens in logbook. (*Note: Specimens for frozen section are recorded in the logbook by the pathologist.*)

### SPECIMENS FOR CYTOLOGY, BACTERIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, HEMATOLOGY, etc.

1. These specimens are brought to the O.R. front desk with requisition and delivered to appropriate department by PCA or porter, as soon as possible.
2. After hours or weekends, these specimens are transported to the Lab Department by porter, PCA or nursing staff, as soon as possible. (*Exception- General Site: Bacteriology specimens other than anerobic are placed in refrigerator in PWA to be transported the following morning.*)

### BLOOD SPECIMENS

1. Blood specimens are entered in the computer and delivered to the Lab as soon as possible by porter, PCA or nursing staff.

*Note: Blood gas analysis may be performed in the O.R. at the General Site. Ensure the results readout is labeled with patient's name and MCP number.*

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## BASIC SPECIMEN CARE

SPECIMEN	FIXATIVE	SPECIAL CARE
Tissue for routine pathology (includes digits: fingers or toes)	10% formalin	Place in specimen container with 20:1 formalin to specimen. Identify specimen(s) on pathology requisition. Physician will complete and sign requisition.
Tissue for frozen/quick section	Dry	Call Pathology when specimen is retrieved. Complete frozen section pathology requisition. Place specimen in labeled container. Specimen is taken by the pathologist or brought to the frozen section room by O.R. nurse, ASAP.
Limbs	Nil	Double bag limb and label. Have porter/PCA transport limb to Pathology/morgue. Attach completed pathology requisition.
Cultures for C&S	Anaerobic swab	Use anaerobic swab. Complete microbiology requisition. Send to Lab, ASAP.
Fluid for C&S	Sterile bottle	Complete microbiology requisition. Send to Lab, ASAP.
Fluid for cytology	95% alcohol	Place specimen in container with ½ & ½ alcohol to specimen. Complete cytology requisition. Send to Cytology, ASAP.
Scrapings for cytology	Cytology spray	Scrapings placed on slide and sprayed with cytology spray. Complete non-gynae cytology requisition.

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## GENERAL SURGERY

### Specifics

SPECIMEN	FIXATIVE	SPECIAL CARE
Liver biopsy	Dry	Routine handling.
Lymph node biopsy		
(1) ? Lymphoma	Dry	Procedure performed in a.m. Place specimen in sterile container, and send to Pathology, ASAP with completed requisition.
(2) Immunological studies	Hank's solution (General Site)	Order in Meditech under <b>Order Entry LY</b> . Send to Immunology Department within 48 hours.
(3) Other	Check with surgeon	Dependent upon specific test ordered.
Peritoneal fluid	Check with surgeon	Dependent upon specific test ordered.
Breast implants	Dry	Send to Pathology, ASAP. Complete pathology requisition. If implant encapsulated with tissue, send to Pathology in formalin.
Needle localization breast biopsy (St. Clare's O.R.)	Nil	Place specimen in blue grid container. Avoid excessive compression. Label. Porter transports specimen and mammogram to: (a) Mammography, (b) then specimen and film to radiologist, (c) finally specimen to Pathology with requisition.
Skin for skin graft	N/S	Place specimen on saline-soaked gauze in sterile container, and seal bottle with tape. Label and date. Place in refrigerator for a maximum of 14 days at 1-10°C.

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**GYNAE / ONCOLOGY**  
*Specifics*

SPECIMEN	FIXATIVE	SPECIAL CARE
Pelvic washings	50% alcohol	Add alcohol to container, with a dilution of ½ washing to ½ alcohol. Send to Cytology.
Specimens for chromosome study	N/S or Hank's solution	Place specimen in sterile container in N/S or Hank's solution. Send to Cytogenetics Lab (brown bag) with appropriate requisition, and call 777-4532.  If after hours, place specimen container with preservative in fridge, and notify one of the following personnel. <b>The specimen is NOT to be left all weekend.</b>  Olga French - 782-0623 Tom Gulliver - 753-7249 Lorraine Hogan - 364-6682 Debbie Woodford - 745-5502 (If unable to contact anybody, notify Lab Office.)
CONE or LEEP Biopsy	10% formalin	Have Lugols, Monsels & acetic acid 3% available for tissue preparation.

**ENT**  
*Specifics*

SPECIMEN	FIXATIVE	SPECIAL CARE
Most are routine or frozen sections		Follow routine guidelines.
Washings: C&S, fungus, TB	No fixative	Place in sterile bottle. Complete microbiology requisition.
Cytology	95% alcohol	Ensure ½ and ½ concentration of washings and alcohol. Complete cytology requisition.

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## NEUROSURGERY

### *Specifics*

SPECIMEN	FIXATIVE	SPECIAL CARE
Cerebral Spinal Fluid		All specimens in sterile glass culture tube with a minimum of 1 ml equal amount alcohol and fluid.
If:		
A. Cytology	95% alcohol	
B. Chemistry	Nil	Order in computer: Glucose - CSFG Protein - CSFP RBC - CSFRBC WBC - CSFWBC
C. C&S	Nil	Complete micro requisition.
D. Beta HCG & Alpha Fetoprotein		Order in computer: AFP, BHCG
Stereotactic Brain Biopsy		A sterile Petri dish is required. Very tiny specimen.
Pituitary Tumor (Transphenoidal)	(1) Electron Microscopy (EM) (2) formalin 10%	Two specimens are taken: First in EM fixative (found in CC fridge or Lab); second in formalin.
Brain tumor cystic fluid	50% alcohol	To Pathology.

## CV

SPECIMEN	FIXATIVE	SPECIAL CARE
All specimens routine, including valves	10% formalin	Routine care and handling.



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## PERIPHERAL VASCULAR

SPECIMEN	FIXATIVE	SPECIAL CARE
All specimens routine	10% formalin	Routine care and handling.

## ORAL

SPECIMEN	FIXATIVE	SPECIAL CARE
All specimens routine	10% formalin	Routine care and handling.

## THORACIC *Specifics*

SPECIMEN	FIXATIVE	SPECIAL CARE
Lung tissue	No fixative, unless after 1600 hours. Check with Pathology if between 1600-1630 hours.	Send to Pathology, ASAP. If dry, with requisition. If after hours, handle as routine in 10% formalin.
Bronchial washings: C&S, TB, fungus	No fixative	Place fluid in sterile bottle. Complete microbiology form.
Cytology	95% alcohol	Ensure 1/2 and 1/2 concentration of washing and alcohol. Complete cytology requisition.
Nodes for pathology	? formalin	Check with surgeon.

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### UROLOGY *Specifics*

SPECIMEN	FIXATIVE	SPECIAL CARE
Routine	formalin	
Biopsy of testicle	Bouin's solution	Place specimen in Bouin's solution. Send to Pathology with pathology requisition. <b><i>Identify time of collection as specimen can only remain in solution for 2 hrs.</i></b>
Urine for cytology	95% alcohol	Complete cytology requisition.
Pelvic lymph nodes	Nil	Most sent dry. Frozen section.
Sperm analysis	N/S	Specimen is placed on sterile glass slide with squirt of sterile N/S. Place slide in cardboard cassette. Label and complete pathology requisition, identifying <u>side and time</u> sent to Lab. Send directly to Lab. Record O.R. room number on requisition, so Pathology can call back.
Stones: Bladder, urethral, renal	Nil	Place in regular specimen container.

### ORTHOPAEDICS *Specifics*

SPECIMEN	FIXATIVE	SPECIAL CARE
Most specimens are fixed in formalin	10% formalin	Complete pathology requisition.
Cultures for C&S		Use anaerobic swab. Complete microbiology requisition.
Bone chips from bone retrieval	Thio broth	Place in special culture tube; verify expiration date (found in Ortho supply room, St. Clare's). Send to Microbiology with completed requisition. Copy of report to Organ Procurement officer, General Site.

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## DAY SURGERY

SPECIMEN	FIXATIVE	SPECIAL CARE
Urine for cysto	95% ETOH	Concentration 50% urine / 50% alcohol. Complete cytology requisition.
Testicular biopsy	Bouin's solution	Place specimen in Bouin's solution, and send to Pathology. Complete pathology requisition, identifying actual <u>time</u> specimen taken. (Test is time dependent.)
Sperm Analysis	N/S	Specimen is placed on sterile glass slide with squirt of sterile N/S. Place slide in cardboard cassette. Label and complete pathology requisition, identifying <u>side and time</u> sent to Lab. Send directly to Lab. Record O.R. room number on requisition, so Pathology can call back.
Sural nerve biopsy	N/S	Send to Lab in N/S, and complete pathology requisition.
Temporal nerve biopsy	formalin	Send to Pathology in formalin. Complete pathology requisition.
Muscle biopsy		Use Raiport muscle clamp. (Muscle cut after clamp applied.) Place muscle biopsy with clamp on lightly saline-soaked gauze, and place in specimen container. ( <i>Specimen should be free of fascia and nerve tissue.</i> ) Send to Pathology with requisition ASAP.
Viral study	Plastic tube with pink medium	Complete microbiology requisition.
Lymphoma Study ~ Lymph Node	Hank's solution. Small piece of specimen in bottle with Hank's solution	Order in Meditech under <b>Order Entry</b> under <b>LY</b> . Send to Immunology ASAP.
Fungal Studies	Fungal Kit	Fungal kit supplied by Microbiology Lab. (Brown letter-size envelope.) Complete requisition, and notify Lab of specimen.
Crystallography study (for synovial fluid)		Send to Chemistry in green-stopper tube. Use <b>Order Entry</b> (mnemonic - <b>CF</b> for fluid and crystals).



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## BONE FOR BONE BANK

### PURPOSE

Bone collected for the Bone Bank must be with consent of donor and managed following specific criteria as per organ procurement guidelines to ensure safe donation to recipient.

### POLICY

1. The bone donation consent form must be completed prior to surgery.
2. Verify the donor meets the Organ Procurement Program's criteria. (*See attached.*)
3. Bone chips are sent to Microbiology in the Thio broth culture tube for C&S analysis. A copy of the report is requested to go to the Organ Procurement officer.

### PROCEDURE

1. The scrub nurse places the bone aseptically in a sterile Mason jar. The circulating nurse labels the jar, secures and tapes the lid.
2. Contact the person on call for Organ Procurement for instructions.
3. During weekdays 0800-1600 hours, the bone may be transported:
  - (a) to the Bone Bank by the orthopaedic head nurse or orthopaedic technician at St. Clare's Site.
  - (b) to the bone freezer by nursing staff at the General Site.
4. After hours and on weekends, for both sites, bone is placed in the freezer. Notify on-call Organ Procurement officer the following morning.
5. Complete and send donor information form to the Organ Procurement Program, Room 2765-A, General Site.
6. See other related information in orthopaedic/neuro O.R. rooms.