MEMO

TO: Maria Tracey, Program Director, Surgical Program
Dr. Dan Fontaine, Site Chief, Lab Medicine, General Hospital Site

FROM: Dr. Don Cook
Clinical Chief
Laboratory Medicine Program
St. John's Hospital, Eastern Health
St. Clare's Site

DATE: August 23, 2005

RE: **Mastectomy Specimens**

I am requesting that all mastectomy specimens be placed in a large container and completely immersed in 10% formalin. Specimens should be immediately forwarded to the Pathology Lab where the breast tumour 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,

Please make every attempt to ensure that these cases are done early in the day and submitted to the laboratory before 4:00 p.m.

Sincerely yours,

Donald M. Cook, MD, FRCPC, FCAP
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