SURGICAL PATHOLOGY TISSUE SUBMISSION CRITERIA AND EXEMPTION

SPECIMENS EXEMPT FROM LABORATORY EXAMINATION

<u>Principle</u>: This policy provides guidance on what specimens are exempt from submission to Pathology, what specimens will routinely be evaluated only grossly, without microscopic sections, how specimens should be submitted if special studies are requested, and how to process radioactive material in submitted specimens.

The Medical Staff Rules and Regulations define what specimens do not need to be sent for pathologic examination. These exemptions were determined by members of the Medical Staff with the input from the Laboratory Medical Director. Exemptions will be updated as needed in collaboration with the Medical Staff.

Specimens exempt from pathologic examination:

- 1. Specimens that by their nature or condition do not permit productive examination:
 - a. cataract
 - b. orthopedic appliance
 - c. foreign body
 - d. portion of rib removed only to enhance operative exposure.
 - e. bone structure removed in preparation for routine, elective prosthetic device implantation
 - f. pacemakers
- 2. Therapeutic radioactive sources, the removal of which is guided by radiation safety monitoring requirements.
- 3. Traumatically injured members that have been amputated and for which examination for either medical or legal reasons is not deemed necessary by the surgeon.
- 4. Foreign bodies (e.g. bullets) that for legal reasons are given directly in the chain of custody to law enforcement representatives.
- 5. Specimens known to rarely, if ever, show pathologic change and removal which is highly visible post-operatively:

- a. such as the foreskin from the circumcision of a newborn infant
- b. redundant tissue taken during an A/P colporrhaphy or perineorrhaphy (e.g. vaginal epithelium),
- c. extra digits,
- d. scars
- e. skin removed during cosmetic or reconstructive procedures (e.g. abdominoplasty) that are not contiguous with a lesion and that are taken from patients that do not have histories of malignancy.
- 6 Placentas that are grossly normal and have been removed during operative and non-operative obstetrics. Placentas from women with high-risk pregnancies are sent at the discretion of the obstetrician.
- 7 Teeth provided the anatomic name or anatomic number of each tooth, or fragment of tooth is recorded in the medical record.
- 8 Fluid specimens, such as fluid obtained from thoracentesis or paracentesis, may be discarded if laboratory testing is not indicated. However, if any testing is ordered, the entire fluid will be submitted and retained in the laboratory for possible additional testing.

<u>Specimens that should be sent for pathologic examination at the discretion of the submitting practitioner:</u>

- 1. Venous segments
- 2. Orthopedic shavings
- 3. Toe pieces/bone fragments from fusion/buniectomy.
- 4. Routine hernia sac from patients under 18 years.
- 5. Pieces of bowel from colostomy take-down
- 6. Skin cysts

Specimens which should be submitted always for gross examination only:

- 1. Tonsils and adenoid tissue in patients under age 12
- 2. Nasal cartilage, turbinates, bone and uvula.

Additional Comments:

- 1. Any of the above specimens will be sent for laboratory examination when specifically requested by the operating surgeon.
- 2. Implanted devices that are removed/replaced due to malfunction will be sent for laboratory investigation when requested by the operating surgeon.

References

Surgical Pathology Specimens for Gross Examination Only and Exempt from Submission; a CAP Q-Probe Study of Current Policies in 413 Institutions, Arch, Pathol. Lab. Med., Vol. 123, February 1999 University of Vermont Medical Center Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

Approved as part of the Medical Staff Rules and Regulations at Med Staff Meeting 3/10/17.