

ROUTINE TISSUE HANDLING

All tissue specimens should be placed in 10% formalin, the volume being five times that of the specimen. Formalin and containers are supplied by our laboratory. Small biopsy bottles containing 10% *neutral* buffered formalin are also available.

All specimens should be accompanied by a completed requisition form including birth date, patient name, social security number, clinical history, specimen type, physician and billing information including ICD9 codes. The container should also bear the patient name and specimen information. When available, gummed labels should be removed from the requisition and placed on the specimen container for identification confirmation. Specimen may be sent by courier or by mail. Special mailing tubes are available from PSIP.

Turnaround time on routine cases is 24 hours.

All malignancies are reviewed within the department by a second pathologist. Significant disagreements are resolved through consultation outside the department by appropriate experts. The results of extradepartmental consultations are forwarded to referring clinicians. Corrected or amended reports are issued when appropriate and significant discrepancies are always telephoned to the referring clinician as soon as possible. Frozen section diagnosis are correlated with the final diagnosis and reported monthly. Statistics are also kept on in-house quality review agreement and on outside consultation agreement. All pathologists participate in quarterly Pathologist Improvement Programs provided by the College of American Pathology. Pathologists are also encouraged to attend periodic society meetings.