

PATHOLOGY &
LABORATORY MEDICINEA banner with a blue background and white text that reads "Specimen Collection". The background features a pattern of white and blue circles, resembling a molecular or cellular structure.

Specimen Collection

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Surgical Pathology Tissue Specimen Collection Instructions:

Most specimens (but not all) are to be preserved and delivered to the lab in 10% formalin to avoid cellular degeneration. Use at least 3-4 times formalin to tissue volume.

For specimens being placed into 10% formalin:

1. Specimens should be immersed in 10% formalin as soon as possible but within 1 hour of the biopsy or resection procedure.
2. The time of removal of the tissue and the time of immersion of the tissue in 10% formalin should be recorded and submitted to the laboratory.

Large specimens should be submitted fresh in saline and kept refrigerated until transport can occur. For unusual testing (examples include, but are not limited to metabolic or genetic diseases), please confer with a Surgical Pathologist prior to collection (650-723-7211).

[Test Requests / Test Requisitions](#)

Laboratory tests may be ordered by one of the following:

- By use of customized hard copy laboratory test request form with client information
- Posted PDF of Laboratory [Test Requisitions](#)
- Printed copy of test order from EPIC

Specimen Labeling

The following information must be legibly recorded on a label affixed in an irreversible fashion to the specimen container (not the lid):

- Patient's full name (not a nickname)
- Medical Record Number or other unique identifier (eg. date of birth)
- Date when specimen was obtained
- Specimen submitted

Bar-coded pre-printed labels with accession numbers generated by an information system may be used. Use only one label per specimen.

Use of a request form wrapped around the container is not acceptable as a specimen label. Specimens will not be accepted if the information on the specimen label does not match the information on the accompanying requisition.

Specimens with labels that do not contain required information (or for which the information is not legible) will be considered improperly identified.

Specimen Preparation for Transport

Place the labeled specimen in a leak proof, clear, sealed plastic biohazard bag designed for specimen transport (red biohazard trash bags will not be accepted).

The label should be affixed to the specimen container not the bag.

Place the matching completed requisition in the outside pouch of the bag. Place only one patient per specimen bag (do not place multiple patient specimens in the same bag).

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