

<b>Policy #:</b>	100 (PLH-100-04)	<b>Effective Date:</b>	9/30/2004	<b>Reviewed Date:</b>	1/6/2017
<b>Subject:</b>	ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY				
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## ANATOMIC AND CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

The pathology offices are fully staffed from 08:00 to 18:00 Monday through Friday (16026). A staff pathologist with remote access to hospital and laboratory information systems, is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to assist with routine, emergent and urgent consultation related to patient care and administration within the scope of pathology and laboratory medicine, including 24/7 coverage of the Surgery Department for frozen section consultation. Phone calls after routine clerical staff working hours are automatically forwarded to the clinical lab (17990). The on-call pathologist is also available via secure text message 24/7 (refer to daily Physician Call Schedule to identify the on-call pathologist or contact the hospital operator, or laboratory at 17990).

Surgical specimens must be left in the pathology refrigerator in surgery or in the tissue laboratory prior to 17:00, Monday through Friday and 08:00 Saturday, in order to assure overnight processing and interpretation the next business day. There is no Saturday night processing; nor Sunday reporting of surgical pathology specimens. If a biopsy or surgical specimen, requiring urgent attention, is collected after these hours, it may be possible to add it to the overnight tissue processing cycle. In such case please contact the on-call pathologist as soon as possible.

All signed out surgical pathology reports are downloaded and transmitted to Powerchart for immediate viewing. Facsimile reports can also be sent if you indicate your fax number.

Non-gynecologic cytology reporting is essentially on the same schedule as surgical pathology, with 24 hour turnaround Monday - Saturday. Specimens submitted on holidays and weekends will be reported the next working day. Cytology specimens requiring cell block preparation may be delayed due to necessary overnight tissue processing. Urgent Gyn cytology requests will be handled similarly. Routine Gyn cytology cases require 1-3 days turnaround time.

Fine needle aspiration biopsies (FNAB) require special handling by pathologist and technologist. Deep-seated lesions require guidance by imaging techniques and are scheduled through Radiology Department. A pathologist is usually available to perform FNAB of superficial, palpable lesions in our lab procedure room. Scheduling of FNAB by pathologist is done by calling Cytology at 541-6030.

All specimens removed at surgery or elsewhere in the hospital must be sent for pathologist's examination unless excluded by action of the medical staff. Table I lists those exceptions which need not be sent. Table II lists specimens which will require gross description only. Table III lists specimens for which special processing requirements are needed. The order and requisition form should clearly specify any special or additional processing not covered by these routines. When in doubt, please contact the laboratory (17990) or on-call pathologist.