

MEDICAL STAFF STANDARD

SUBJECT: Pathology

RESPONSIBLE PERSONS: St. Ann's Medical Staff

POLICY:

SPECIMENS EXEMPT FROM SUBMISSION & SPECIMENS FOR GROSS PATHOLOGIC EXAM:

All tissues removed at time of operation, except for those specified on the following **approved list of specimens not to pathology**, shall be sent to the hospital pathologist for description and evaluation. Specimens excluded from routine submission to Pathology shall be documented in the patient's medical record. Other tissues and specimens can be sent to pathology at the physician's discretion,

SPECIMENS NOT TO PATHOLOGY:

- (1) Bone donated to the bone bank
- (2) Bone segments removed as part of corrective or reconstructive orthopedic procedures (eg., rotator cuff repair, synostosis repair, spinal fusion)
- (3) Cataracts removed by phacoemulsification.
- (4) Dental appliances
- (5) Fat removed by liposuction.
- (6) Foreign bodies such as bullets or other medicolegal evidence that are given directly to law enforcement personnel.
- (7) Foreskin from the circumcision of a newborn.
- (8) Intrauterine contraceptive devices without attached soft tissue.
- (9) Medical devices such as catheters, gastrotomy tubes, myringotomy tubes, stents, and sutures that have not contributed to patient illness, injury or death.
- (10) Middle ear ossicles.
- (11) Orthopedic hardware and other radiopaque mechanical devices provided there is an alternative policy for documentation.
- (12) Placentas that do not meet criteria for examination.
- (13) Rib segments of other tissues removed only for the purpose of gaining surgical access, provided the patient does not have a history or malignancy.
- (14) Saphenous vein segments harvested for coronary artery bypass.
- (15) Skin or other normal tissue removed during a cosmetic or reconstructive procedure (eg, blepharoplasty, cleft palate repair, abdominoplasty rhytidectomy or syndactyly repair), provided it is not contiguous with a lesion and the patient does not have a history of malignancy.
*** (This does not include breast reductions)
- (16) Teeth when there is no attached soft tissue
- (17) Therapeutic radioactive sources.

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(18) Toenails and fingernails that are grossly unremarkable.

SPECIMENS FOR GROSS ONLY: The following list of specimens may be appropriate for gross only examination at the discretion of the surgeon, and an optional microscopic examination can be performed at the discretion of the pathologist or at the clinician's request. Specimens excluded from examination shall be documented in the patient's medical record.

- (1) Accessory digits.
- (2) Bunions and hammertoes
- (3) Extraocular muscle from corrective surgical procedures (eg., strabismus repair).
- (4) Inguinal hernia sacs in adults.
- (5) Nasal bone and cartilage from rhinoplasty or septoplasty
- (6) Prosthetic breast implants
- (7) Prosthetic cardiac valves without attached tissue.
- (8) Tonsils and adenoids from children.
- (9) Torn meniscus.
- (10) Umbilical hernia sacs in children less than 12 yrs of age.
- (11) Varicose veins.

AUTOPSIES: an elective autopsy, at the request of the physician or next of kin, may be done as a follow-up to medical diagnosis.

The elective autopsy shall be performed only upon written consent by the next of kin (as defined below). The consent is documented on the Authority for Autopsy form and the signature witnessed by two hospital staff members.

The "next of kin" order is as follows:

1. Spouse of the decedent.
2. Children of the decedent.
3. Parents of the decedent.
4. Siblings of the decedent.
5. Any other relative or person who has written authority executed by the decedent during his or her lifetime to make arrangements for the burial, or any relative or person who assumes custody of the body for burial.
(The above consent is not required for coroner cases.)

Elective autopsies will be performed in accordance with the hospital policy/procedure for autopsies.

DEVELOPED BY: St. Ann's Medical Staff **ORIGINAL DATE:** February 1974
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REPLACES: Medical Staff Rules & Regulations
REVIEWED BY: Medical Executive Committee 11/4/2002
APPROVAL FOR IMPLEMENTATION BY: St. Ann's Hospital Board of Trustees
DATE: 12/17/2002

Signature on File
Steve Tuttle, M.D., President, Medical Staff

Signature on File
Kirk Hummer, RN, Chief Operating Officer