

## *Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum*

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To: Central Zone Physicians, Health Service Directors

From: Dr. L. Geldenhuys, Chief of Service, Division of Anatomical Pathology, Central Zone  
Colleen Caines, Manager, Division of Anatomical Pathology, Central Zone

Date: March 5, 2018

### **Subject: Collection, Handling and Transportation Requirements for OR Tissue Specimens**

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The Division of Anatomical Pathology in Central Zone is changing the handling and delivery requirements for resection specimens collected in the OR. Effective April 1, 2018 all resection specimens greater than 1cm must be delivered to the onsite laboratory **within thirty (30) minutes** from the time of collection. This will ensure the initial processing of specimens in the laboratory is performed as soon as possible. This is a critical step to ensure full exposure to formalin which prevents degradation of the tissue, protecting specimen integrity to ensure quality results are obtained. To facilitate rapid transport, contact Porter Services and indicate **Urgent** delivery is required.

Specimens 1cm or less must be delivered to the laboratory **same day**. This requirement will support laboratory processes to ensure optimal patient care and timely reporting of results by improving efficiency of workflow.

The **collection date and time** as well as the **time placed in formalin** must be clearly indicated on the requisition. This information is used to calculate the cold ischemic time and total fixation time.

To support these requirements and improve overall turn around times within the laboratory, Anatomical Pathology at the Mackenzie Building is extending regular hours effective April 3, 2018. New regular hours:

- Monday to Friday: 7am to 11pm.
- Weekends and Holidays: 7am to 4pm.

Specimens collected to be delivered to the laboratory outside these regular hours must be handled following the current “call” process.

Please contact Syndy LeBlanc, Technical Supervisor at 902-473-7704 with questions or concerns.