

# Memorandum

To: Capital Health Physicians, Health Services Directors  
From: Dr. L. Geldenhuys, Chief of Service, Anatomical Pathology Division  
Date: January 24, 2014  
Subject: Suboptimal Fixation of Surgical Pathology Specimens

The Division of Anatomical Pathology frequently receives surgical pathology specimens with insufficient amounts of formalin for adequate fixation to ensure accurate immunohistochemical staining and interpretation. The problem of inadequate fixation is aggravated by the delay in receipt of specimens for opening in the laboratory to further promote fixation.

Surgical pathology specimens must be promptly immersed in a container of sufficient size to accommodate a formalin to specimen ratio of 10:1 and be promptly delivered to the Anatomical Pathology Laboratory with the date and time of collection and the time placed in formalin, and two patient identifiers recorded on the requisition.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Laurette Geldenhuys at 473-7334.