

Anatomic Pathology Specimen Identification and Labeling

Histology Specimens

1. All **tissue specimen containers** MUST be labeled with the following:
 - a. Patient's full legal first and last names.
 - b. Date of birth OR
 - c. Clinic medical record number.
 - d. Tissue site/source, including laterality (right or left) and orientation (upper, lower, inferior, superior, etc.) as applicable; use letter designations (A, B, C, and so on) as needed.
 - e. Date and time of collection.
2. Additionally, any container MUST be initialed by collecting personnel.
 - a. Specimens with removable lids need the primary container labeled, not the lid.
3. Use separate containers for each specimen.
 - a. Do NOT place multiple specimens into one container if they are from different body sites.
 - b. This is especially important for skin/mole biopsies that look similar.
 - c. It is acceptable to place several core biopsies into one container if cores are all from the same lesion, polyp, etc.
4. All **test requisitions** MUST contain the following:
 - a. Patient's full legal first and last names.
 - b. Date of birth.
 - c. Clinic medical record number.
 - d. Tissue site/source, including laterality and orientation as applicable; use letter designations (A, B, C, and so on) as needed.
 - e. Date and time of collection
 - f. First initial and full last name of collecting personnel
 - g. For **breast** tissue, the following is also required:
 - 1) Time specimen is placed into formalin.
 - 2) If formalin time is the same as collection time, note that both occurred at same time (i.e. collected and fixed at 0900).
5. Information on specimen containers must exactly match information on test requisitions.
6. Specimens will NOT be processed until any identification and/or labeling issues are resolved.
7. Identification and/or labeling issues may result in delay of testing and results.

1/05/24