# Pre-analytical Specimen Preparation for Anatomic Pathology

**Customer Education Series** 



### What is the Pre-analytical phase?



- Handling of specimens before they reach the pathology lab
- Involves communication, labeling, packaging, transport of specimens



Delivering a specimen to the pathology department involves many steps including:

- Correctly identifying the patient.
- Placing the specimen in an appropriate container and preservative.
- Correctly labelling the specimen.
- Complete the pathology request slip.
- Transporting the specimen to the pathology department.

# **Request form**

- 1- Patient Identifier
- a) Name
- b) Medical record number
- c) Identification number
- d) Date of birth
- e) Gender
- f) Race/ethnicity



- 2. Requester Identifier:
- a) Name of the requester
- b) Contact details of requester
- c) From where the specimen was sent
- 3. Specimen descriptors:
- a) Appropriate fixative
- b) Date and time specimen taken
- c) high risk patients
- d) How many parts ie. how many containers
- e) Each container labelled with parts
- f) Relevant history and findings ;
  - sutures indication
- g) Type of tests / diagnostic studies .Eg HPE, frozen section

-		
		Marken Marken
OTHER - PL	EASE SPECIFY IN CLINICAL HISTORY	
Site :		
RIGHT		
Specimen	Collection :	
Specimen Collection	: 02-06-2021 13:35:33	
Sample Tak	en	
by / Printed		
Sample Tak	00 and 21 and 20 and 20	



### Important

- To ensure zero error in reporting cases
- correct report to correct patient
- correct site/side of lesion
- Standards
- Pre-analytical steps serves as an important and initial gate keeper
- No rejection policy

# **Accession number**

- Refers to alphanumeric code generated or printed on the specimen
- Used as a case identified
  - label on form, containers, cassettes, and slides



# Case identifier

- a. HP = Tissue specimen for histopathology examination
- b. 21 = Year of 2021
- c. 423 = case number
- d. C = the third container for the same patient



### Frozen section

- Notify the lab in advance
- Inform lab when patient in OT
- Send specimen fresh to lab ASAP
- Provide a contact number

### Request form - Gynae

### PAP SMEAR REQUEST FORM

Name			Clinic / Ward	: SBC - PCM Postgraduate Clinic
MRN	:		Phone No	:
I/C No	:		Date of Admission / Clinic Appointment	1
DOB	:		Requested By	
Age	: 25y 11m 14d		Ordered Date/Time	: 22-10-2021 09:19
Race	: Malay		Consultant in Charge	:
Gender	: FEMALE		AMAGRAM	TERIMA220CT'21 10:08AM
Collection	: N/A			
App. Date Clinical History	: screening, no sx	•		

Gy-21- \_

#### Screening Information

i. Specimen	: CERVICAL SMEAR	v. cytology no.	:
Type of ii. sample	Liquid based Preparation	vi. Prevoius pathology no. Place of	:
iii. Sample site	: Cervix	vii. previous screening	:
Type of iv.screening	: Repeat	viii. Previous diagnosis	:NILM

#### Clinical Summary

Hormonal	: Pre Menopausal	v. Symptom /	Abnormal Bleeding.	
i. status		Sign	Specify:	
Last menstrual ii. period	:14-09-2021			

Contraceptive/ ... Hormonal : No Info

iii. therapy Treatment iv. history : None

vii. Additional information

: Normal

· vi. Cervix

Specimen Collection : 22-10-2021 09:21:22 Sample Taken by Sample Taken at : SBC - Phlebotomy Clinic 3

## Request form - Non-Gynae & Fnac

- Anatomic Pathology Request Form (white form)
- Patient's name
- Patient's hospital ID number / MRN
- Clinical diagnosis
- Source of specimen
- Test request
- Date and time of collection
- Other pertinent clinical information
- Surgeon's name

	Level 1, UITM Mer 4 Phone: 0	dical Specialist Center Faculty of Medicine UITM Sg Buloh Jalan Hospital 7000 Sg Buloh Selangor 03-6126 5000 Ext: 5215	UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA
	ANATOMIC PATHOLO	GY REQUEST FORM	интитеристора. 199-11/25- 935943218A топ сая изя отку HP-21- 423 A
Name		Clinic / Ward	: SBC - Incatient
MRN	: HUITM0001457	Phone No	-
I/C No	-	Date of Admission / Clinic Appointment	1
D08	: 26-06-1986	Requested By	
Age	: 34y 11m 6d	Ordered Date/Time	: 02-06-2021 13:34
Race	: Malay	Consultant in Charge	Annual Anna
Gender	: FEMALE		
App.Date (Specimen)	: N/A		
Remark	E		
Clinical H right supra Diagnosis right supra	istory : Inglottic mass sample take Li Inglottic mass rest :	n from right vestibuler fok	
HPE - Sma	Il Excision		
Enariman	2		

No rejection policy:

ALLs tissue specimens are precious

Discrepancies?

- Rectification is to be done prior to further processing of the tissues
- Requestor contact details

### Rectification

RECTIFICATION FORM *Please return this form after rectification has been made	
Patient's Name     :       Registration No. / MRN     :       Patient's ID / NRIC     :       Ward / Clinic     :       Soppo , HSB       Type of Specimen     :       Thyroid Biopsy , lobe , left       Test Request     :       HPE       Date & Time Received     :	
Reason for Rectification     : No K p (IC) berbeza pada form dan      sticker label'       Informed By       Date & Time Informed       Informed to       : PPK / Staff Nurse       : Requester	
Corrective actions (to be filled by requester): <u>PL</u> <u>COLLECS</u> <u>PLE ANNA LE</u> Remark (to be filled by lab staff): <u>RETURN 70</u> <u>PHE WAD</u> <u>PD</u> <u>CHEELE</u> <u>PHE IC</u> <u>PF</u> .	
Further details; kindly contact Anatomic Pathology Laboratory, UiTM at 03 – 61265244 / 5053 Effective date of use: 29 AUGUST 2016	+/19.

	1220	
3. No. K.P.: 75	-2	4. Jantina: Lelaki Perempu
5. Umur: 44 tahun	6. Keturunan: Melayh	7. Wad/Klinik: 2040
8. Tarikh Masuk Wad:	9. Pekerjaan:	10. Taraf Perkahwinan: 11. Bayar   Percuma
12. No. Laporan Dahulu:		13. Butiran Penting:
14. Ringkasan Klinikal, Pener Keluarga: h0 lukkh J> MMG a	Sully Belly Bothpred noted	Jaundice   Idak     Lymphadenopathy   Image: Constraint of the second se
	7811:166	Haematinics Hosp Sg Buloh Ro
	antina	651 4 17/07/19 Thyroid

# Data of Rectifications

May 2016 - August 2021



#### ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY LABORATORY THE CENTRE FOR PATHOLOGY DIAGNOSTIC & RESEARCH LABORATORY (CPDRL), FACULTY OF MEDICINE, UITM SUNGAI BULOH CAMPUS, 48000 SUNGAI BULOH, SELANGOR

#### Review Rectification: JAN – AUGUST 2021

NO	PROBLEM	TEST REQUEST	SOURCE OF SPECIMEN	TOTAL	CORECTIVE ACTIONS
1.	Wrongly labelled and	Non		1	Requester was filled in
	ordered patients specimen	gynae			rectification form
	by requester				

#### Review Rectification: JAN – AUGUST 2020

NO	PROBLEM	TEST REQUEST	SOURCE OF SPECIMEN	TOTAL	CORECTIVE ACTIONS		
1.	Printed label specimen and handwritten type of specimen patient on request form not tally	HPE		1	Filled in rectification form. Informed requester to make correction. Specimen sent back to Hospital Sungai Buloh. Specimen processed once rectified.		
2.	Specimen Leaking	HPE		1	Filled in rectification form. Informed requester. Specimen sent back to ward.		
Rev	Review Rectification: JAN – JUNE 2019						
NO	PROBLEM	TEST REQUEST	SOURCE OF SPECIMEN	TOTAL	CORECTIVE ACTIONS		
1.	Patient has multiple specimen but only received one specimen	HPE		2	Filled in rectification form. Informed requester. Specimen sent back to Hospital Sungai Buloh.		
1. 2.	Patient has multiple specimen but only received one specimen Wrong labelled on specimen container	HPE		2	Filled in rectification form. Informed requester. Specimen sent back to Hospital Sungai Buloh. Filled in rectification form. Informed requester. Specimen sent back to Hospital Sungai Buloh.		

### Review Rectification: July - Dec 2019

NO	PROBLEM	TEST REQUEST	SOURCE OF SPECIMEN	TOTAL	CORECTIVE ACTIONS
1	Different patient ID/NRIC on form and sticker label	HPE	HSB	1	Filled in rectification form. Informed requester. Specimen processed once rectified.
2	Specimen received does not correlate with the label printed	HPE		2	Filled in rectification form. Informed requester to make correction. Specimen sent back to Hospital Sungai Buloh.
3	Specimen not suitable for HPE test	HPE	HSB	1	Filled in rectification form. Informed requester. Specimen sent back to Hospital Sungai <u>Buloh</u> .
4	Printed label specimen and handwritten type of specimen patient on request form not tally	HPE	HSB	2	Filled in rectification form. Informed requester to make correction. Specimen sent back to Hospital Sungai Buloh. Specimen processed once rectified.
5	No specimen received (received inhaler asthma)	HPE		1	Filled in rectification form. Informed requester. Specimen sent back to Hospital Sungai <u>Buloh</u> .

NO	PROBLEM	TEST REQUEST	SOURCE OF SPECIMEN	TOTAL	CORECTIVE ACTIONS
1.	Different specimen on the patient's request form & sticker	HPE		1	Filled in rectification form. Informed requester to make correction. Specimen processed once rectified.
2.	Specimen not in the formalin	HPE	HSB	1	Filled in rectification form. Informed requester but MO in- charge insist to proceed the test.
3.	Different specimen on the patient's request form & specimen containers(formalin & normal saline)	Not stated	HSB	1	Filled in rectification form. Informed requester to make correction. Specimen sent back to HSB to reconfirmed

### **Review Rectification: JAN - MARCH 2017**

NO	PROBLEM	TEST REQUEST	SOURCE OF SPECIMEN	TOTAL	CORECTIVE ACTIONS
1	Soft Tissue ( Cornea )	HPE		1	Filled in rectification form.
					Informed requester.
					Specimen need to be sent to
					Selayang Hospital.
2	Lower GIT Specimen –	HPE		1	Filled in rectification form.
	Stomach Fundus				Informed requester.
					Specimen need to be sent to
					Selayang Hospital.
3	Four specimen type in	HPE		1	Filled in rectification form.
	same(one) container				Informed requester to make
					correction. Specimen send
					back to HSB.
					Specimen processed once
					rectified.





Form: 35/64

wrong form 3, labelling errors 31, no request form 1

- No formalin/Wrong solution : 7/64
- Missing specimen : 3/64
- Tests: not suitable for HPE or not available : 9/64
- Wrong lab/location : 5/64
- Others : 5/64

specimen leaking, broken slide, requester ask to return the specimen, improper specimen container, 4 specimens in one container

### Fixation

- essential for successful dissection, processing and microscopic examination of diagnostic histopathology specimens.
- The fixative of choice for routine specimens is 10% phosphate-buffered formalin.

- Benefits of fixation
- Allows thin sectioning of tissue by hardening tissue
- Prevents autolysis
- Inactivates infectious agents (except prion diseases)
- Improves cell avidity for special stains

- Pre-laboratory Specimens should be transferred to a fixative within 1 hour of surgical excision.
- If this cannot be achieved, keep the specimen at 4°C including during transfer to the laboratory.
- Deterioration will commence very quickly with the loss of blood supply after surgery.
- Results have shown that the quality of RNA and DNA is reliable for specimens stored at 4 °C overnight. 7

Fixative 10% neutral buffered formalin

- most common fixative for routine histology
- suitable for immunohistochemistry (IHC) and most molecular testing

- Formalin should be replaced with fresh solution after 24 hours if the specimen requires longer fixation before processing, to reduce the effect of polymerisation and ensure a stable concentration.
- Tissues should be fixed in a sufficient volume of solution; optimally in a ratio of 10:1 but at least 5:1 fixative to specimen, for penetration to occur in the most efficient manner
- Insufficient fixation will result in unfixed tissues being damaged by dehydrating fixative effect of ethanol during processing causing:
- Loss of immunohistochemical antigenicity
- Difficulties in microtomy

# References

- http://www.ast.org/uploadedFiles/Main\_Site/Content/ About\_Us/Standard\_Handling\_Care\_Surgical\_Specimens. pdf
- Cytopathology 2011, Oxford University Press.
- Prof Madya Dr Noor Kaslina Kornain
- RCPA fixation tissue guideline number 2/2016, approve 2016 and 2020

# QUIZ

- Pre-analytical Specimen Preparation for Anatomic Pathology quiz
- 1 What is the most common cause of rectification in preanalytical specimen preparation in the AP lab
- a) labeling
- b) Specimen not in formalin
- c) Specimen leaking
- d) Test not available



2- What is the minimum adequate ratio specimen to formalin as per 2020 approved RCPA guidelines

a) 10:1

- b) 5:1
- c) 4:1
- d) 2:1

Tissues should be fixed in a sufficient volume of solution; optimally in a ratio of 10:1 but at least 5:1 fixative to specimen, for penetration to occur in the most efficient manner