CompuNet
CLINICAL LABORATORIES

Surgical Specimen Care, Transportation and Processing

How surgical specimens are handled and moved from Surgery area and other areas of Premier Health hospitals, outside facilities, doctor's office, and surgical centers.

Routine Specimens

- Routine specimens are tissues removed in a surgical procedure and placed into 10% formalin fixative. Such specimens require no refrigeration or special handling.
- Tissue removed from each surgical site is placed into a collection container that has room for the formalin to surround the tissue.
- A patient label is placed on each specimen container. A corresponding site description should be on the requisition and label. (The site description gives location information about where the specimen was taken from e.g. Rt Breast, Skin ellipse Lt. Upper Arm etc.)
- If multiple specimen sites are biopsied in the same surgical session, then the site description on the specimen container and description on the requisition must match. Specimens from the same case are frequently listed in chronological order, however, a FRESH specimen from the procedure could be sent to the lab prior to the remaining specimens so do not be disturbed if a specimen is numbered 2 or 3 with no other specimen's present. The remaining specimens from the case will arrive later.
- A requisition(s) must contain the same information found on every specimen jar. Specimen labels should never be placed on the container lid. The label must be on the side of the container to minimize patient error in the lab.

Special Studies

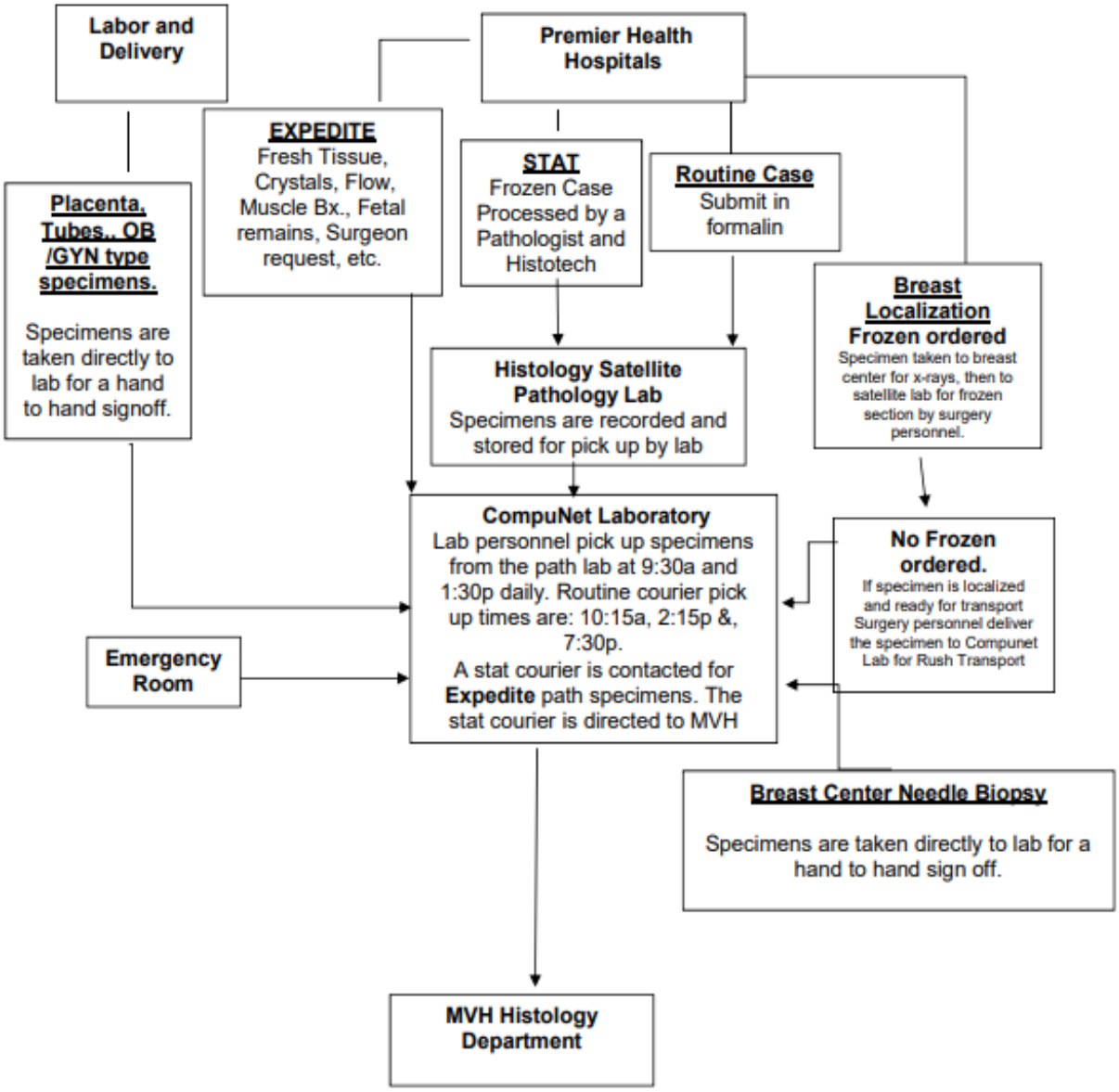
- Frozen Section Must be sent Fresh (no formalin) to the Path lab for immediate freeze and rapid diagnosis. For cases involving multiple specimens, surgery personnel verify that all specimens are present before the case is signed off by the lab personnel.
- Lymph nodes Must be sent fresh to the Path lab unless the surgeon states otherwise.
- Lymphoma Workup/ FLOW A fresh specimen is submitted in a sterile container. CompuNet Lab personnel call for STAT courier and call MVH Histology department at 208-3595 to inform specimen is in route.
- Crystals A fresh specimen wrapped in moist saline gauze is submitted in a sterile container. Lab personnel call for STAT courier and call MVH Histology department at 208-3595 to inform specimen is in route.
- Kidney/bladder stones are sent dry in a sterile cup.
- Cultures are sent to the CompuNet Lab in appropriate collection containers.
- Foreign bodies are collected in any appropriate container.
- Breast Needle Localization: Breast Needle Localization specimens are placed in or on an AccuGrid or a collection Box. (See photos) Once the specimen has been radiographed it cannot

be moved (jarred, jiggled, handled roughly, turned upside down, opened etc.) Such movement could alter the orientation of the specimen and destroy the ability to sample the correct area of the tissue. These specimens are always fresh and must be transported to the lab for STAT Courier Pick Up. Lab personnel will call for STAT courier and call MVH Histology department at #3595 to inform specimen is in route. The STAT courier must be directed to deliver specimen directly to the MVH Histology Department.



If you have any questions concerning surgical specimens call Histology at 208-3595 between the hours of 04:00 and 17:00. If after hours, ask for the On-Call Histotech or Pathologist for a resolution.

Flow Chart


Labor and Delivery
Premier Health Hospitals
EXPEDITE
Fresh Tissue, Crystals, Flow, Muscle Bx., Fetal remains, Surgeon request, etc.
STAT
Frozen Case Processed by a Pathologist and Histotech
Routine Case
Submit in formalin
Placenta, Tubes., OB /GYN type specimens.
Specimens are taken directly to lab for a hand to hand signoff.
Breast Localization Frozen ordered
Specimen taken to breast center for x-rays, then to satellite lab for frozen section by surgery personnel.
Histology Satellite Pathology Lab
Specimens are recorded and stored for pick up by lab
CompuNet Laboratory
Lab personnel pick up specimens from the path lab at 9:30a and 1:30p daily. Routine courier pick up times are: 10:15a, 2:15p &, 7:30p.
A stat courier is contacted for Expedite path specimens. The stat courier is directed to MVH
No Frozen ordered.
If specimen is localized and ready for transport Surgery personnel deliver the specimen to Compunet Lab for Rush Transport
Emergency Room
Breast Center Needle Biopsy
Specimens are taken directly to lab for a hand to hand sign off.
MVH Histology Department