

Section: Division of Nursing

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Approval: Creamer RN, BSN, CRNFA

* **PROTOCOL** *

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HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

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MINOR PROCEDURES

(Scope)

TITLE: CARE OF SPECIMENS

PURPOSE: Outline the care involved with the collection, identification, and sending of specimens to the Laboratory.

LEVEL: Dependent _____ Independent _____ Interdependent X

- CONTENT:**
1. Specimen for Biopsy (Surgical, Endoscopic)
Place in Formalin, label with specimen number and location, and send to Pathology.
 2. Specimen for Frozen Section (Surgical, Endoscopic)
Place in specimen cup without fixative or saline, label, and send to Pathology "STAT" after calling Lab to ensure pathologist is available.
 3. Brushing for Cytology (Bronchoscopy, Gastroscopy, Colonoscopy)
Smear specimen on labeled glass slide, spray with fixative and place it in labeled cardboard mailers, and send to Pathology.
 4. Pap Smears - Brush
Smear specimen on labeled glass slide, spray with fixative, and place in labeled cardboard slide mailers and send to Pathology.
 5. Biliary Drainage for Crystals (Gastroscopy)
Send aspirated fluid in labeled sterile specimen trap and send to Pathology as soon as possible.
 6. Washings for Cytology (Bronchoscopy)
Send aspirated fluid in labeled cup to Pathology.
 7. Brushing for Yeast/Fungus or Culture and Sensitivity (Bronchoscopy, Gastroenterology)
Cut off the end of the brush after pushing brush through the sheath and place in sterile specimen cup without solution, label, and send to Bacteriology "STAT".
 8. Specimen for Helicobacter Pylori (Gastroscopy)
Place biopsy specimen in vial containing "Rapid Urea Broth," label, and send to Bacteriology.
 9. Washings/Brushings for AFB and/or Fungus
Send the end of the brush or washing in the sterile cup without solution to Bacteriology.
 10. Duodenal Aspirate for Giardia (Microscopic Only--cannot do Giardia Antigen on duodenal aspirate)

Send specimen aspirated from duodenum in labeled sterile specimen cup, and send to Bacteriology.

11. Aspirated Stool for C. Difficile (Colonoscopy)
Send aspirated stool in labeled sterile specimen trap to Bacteriology.
12. Aspirated Stool for C&S, Ova and Parasites
Place the aspirated stool for Ova and Parasite, and Para Pak Kit (pink and blue), dividing as indicated on labels, and send it to Bacteriology. C&S in CARY BLAIR container with red fluid.
13. Aspirated Stool for Giardia Antigen
Place the aspirated stool for Giardia Antigen in Para Pak Kit (pink and blue) and send it to Bacteriology.
14. Aspirated Stool for WBC
Send aspirated stool in sterile specimen cup to Bacteriology.
15. Aspirated Fluid for pH (Gastroscopy)
Send aspirated fluid in labeled, sterile specimen trap and send to Chemistry.
16. Paracentesis Fluid
Place fluid for cell count in lavender top tube and send to Pathology.

Place fluid for amylase, lipase, protein, albumin in red top tube, green top tube, or marble top tube, and send to Chemistry.

Place fluid for culture or acid fast bacillus in clear tubes on tray or yellow top tube and send to Bacteriology.
17. Thoracentesis Fluid
Place fluid for cell count with differential in lavender top tube and send to Pathology.

Place fluid for LDH, protein, glucose, amylase in green top tube and send to Chemistry.

Place fluid for gram stain, C&S in clear tube from Thoracentesis Tray.

Place fluid for pH in Blood Gas Kit and send to Laboratory.

Send fluid for AFB or fungus and cytology in evacuated bottle to Pathology (fluid will be divided between Pathology and Bacteriology.)

For all above specimens, enter appropriate orders into Affinity system, attach patient label to specimen container with specimen description as ordered by physician, and affix identical label to spiral notebook to be initialed by lab personnel confirming receipt of specimen.

References: Pathology Lab Specimen Guidelines 9/04; Bacteriology Specimen Collection Guidelines 8/19/03