

Section: Division of Nursing  
Approval: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*  
PROCEDURE  
\*\*\*\*\*

Index: 7420.040a  
Page: 1 of 2  
Issue Date: March 2, 1998  
Reviewed Date: April 12, 2010

HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Originator: M. Mann, RN, CNOR  
Revised by: Cori Reamer, RN  
Reviewed by: ML Mason, RN

OR  
(Scope)

**TITLE: CARE AND HANDLING OF SPECIMENS IN THE OR**

---

**PURPOSE:** To ensure integrity of surgical specimens.

<b>CONTENT:</b>	<b>PROCEDURE STEPS:</b>	<b>KEY POINTS:</b>
	1. All specimens will be labeled with patient information. The appropriate lab voucher will be completed.	Make sure label is complete and legible. (see Lab Manual for examples)
	2. Identity of specimen will be determined by the physician. This will be noted on the patient label on the container.	Make sure surgeon's name is on the surgical pathology sheet.
	3. Specimens will be handled using standard precautions. All specimens will be placed in a plastic bag.	
	4. All specimens collected will be noted in the Log Book in the soiled utility room. This information will include patient information, identity of the specimen and the initials of the scrub and circulator.	
	5. Specimens will be placed in the blue ice chest in the soiled utility room. These will be delivered to the Lab. a minimum of three times during working hours. Specimens collected after hours will be transported the next day.	
	6. The person transporting the specimens will co-initial the Log Book with a lab technician verifying identity of specimens.	
	7. Log books will be kept for seven years.	
	8. Permanent pathology specimens will be sent in an appropriate sized container covered with formalin.	
	9. Cultures and frozen sections will be transported immediately.	

**PROCEDURE STEPS:**

10. The Lab. will receive a daily OR schedule listing any frozen sections to alert a pathologist to be available.
11. In the event stat results are needed after hours, notify Nursing Service to call pathologist on call.
12. Stat pathology results will be communicated directly to the surgeon from the pathologist.
13. Specimens post needle localization will be sent fresh to Radiology. It is then Radiology's responsibility to transport the specimen to Pathology.
14. Any questions regarding preparation of specimens (i.e. - muscle biopsy, lymph nodes) will be directed to the Lab. Manager.

**KEY POINTS:**

Use Lab Manual as a resource first