

**LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER  
ATTENDING STAFF POLICY GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES**

Page 1	Of 2
Policy # <b>ASA 107</b>	
Effective Date: 5/4/2022	

Subject: <b>REVIEW OF PATHOLOGY SLIDES FROM OUTSIDE HOSPITALS</b>		Original Issue Date: 04/02/03 Supersedes: 10/2/13
Departments Consulted: Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Medical Administration	Reviewed & Approved by: Cancer Committee Attending Staff Association Executive Committee	Approved by:  (signature on file) President, Attending Staff Association

**PURPOSE**

To provide consistent, quality pathology assessments for all LAC+USC Medical Center patients who present with a pathologic diagnosis of malignant disease established at a facility that is not LAC+USC. Examples of outside hospitals include, but are not limited to USC Norris Cancer Hospital, USC University Hospital, Doheny Eye Institute, and other LA County Department of Health Services hospitals and clinics.

**POLICY**

Patients who have had diagnostic biopsies or resections at healthcare institutions other than the LAC+USC Medical Center must have any available pathology slides reviewed and interpreted by a pathologist member of the LAC+USC Medical Center Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. Such pathologist must have approved credentials and privileges to interpret the slides and do so as part of the course and scope of their duty to the County of Los Angeles. This interpretation must be done prior to initiating definitive treatment of malignant disease.

The scope of this policy applies to all patients who are scheduled to receive inpatient and/or outpatient medical treatment of cancer including chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or surgical intervention. Surgical intervention includes staging procedures, palliative procedures, and radical surgery.

**PROCEDURE**

- Prior to commencing definitive treatment of malignant disease, the patient's physician must obtain an official interpretation of the outside slides from the LAC+USC Medical Center Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine..
- The patient's physician shall submit the outside pathology slides, if properly labeled and identified for review and interpretation by a credentialed member of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. The slides must have an accompanying requisition form that includes the submitting physician's name, ID number, and pager number.
- The LAC+USC Medical Center Pathology Report shall consist of the official interpretation of the outside slides.
- The Medical Center pathology report shall be made available to the patient's physician.

		Page 2	Of 2
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	ASA President's Initials: On file		

- If a difference exists between the outside and Medical Center pathology reports, the discrepancy will be resolved through an internal review process conducted by Medical Center pathologists. If satisfactory resolution is not achieved, an outside expert pathologist may be consulted. The decision regarding the final diagnosis remains the responsibility of the Medical Center pathologist.
- If the outside pathology slides and/or reports are not available and a decision to initiate treatment of malignant disease without confirmation is in the patient's best interest, the treating physician must inform the patient and include him or her in the treatment decision process. The physician shall obtain the patient's informed consent and document the discussion in the patient's health/medical record.
- Exceptions to this policy may be considered on a case by case basis when:
  - The outside pathology slides are not available or not properly identified as the patient's. In these instances, whenever clinically feasible, a re-biopsy for confirmation of the original diagnosis is strongly recommended prior to institution of treatment.
  - Tissue diagnoses are not necessary according to community standards of practice.

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

Attending Staff  
Housestaff  
Allied Health Professionals

### **PROCEDURE DOCUMENTATION**

- Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Policy and Procedure Manual SP-12.4

### **REFERENCES**

LAC+USC Medical Center Cancer Staging Handbook  
Joint Commission Standards (Patient Assessment)

### **REVISIONS**

April 2, 2003; May 5, 2005, June 4, 2008, July 19, 2010; October 2, 2013; May 4, 2022