



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER**

SUBJECT: SPECIMENS TO BE DELIVERED TO THE PATHOLOGY DEPARTMENT AND EXAMINED BY PATHOLOGISTS

POLICY NO. 364

CATEGORY: Provision of Care	EFFECTIVE DATE: 11/95
POLICY CONTACT: Laron McPhaul, MD	UPDATE/REVISION DATE: 1/22
REVIEWED BY COMMITTEE(S): Surgical Case Review	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to designate which specimens removed from patients by surgery or other operative procedures require delivery to the Department of Pathology laboratory and, of these, which require both macroscopic (gross) examination and microscopic examination, and which require macroscopic examination only for documentation of the procedure.

POLICY:

All anatomical parts, tissues, and foreign objects removed by operation shall be delivered to the Department of Pathology laboratory for examination, and a report of the findings shall be filed in the patient's medical record.

PROCEDURE:

Decisions regarding which specimens are exempt from delivery to a pathologist are made by the Chief of Anatomic Pathology in consultation with other surgical pathologists on the basis that there is no diagnostic information to be derived from these specimens. Decisions regarding which specimens require no microscopic information are made by the above pathologists on the basis that either no diagnostic information would be derived from such examination or that the nature of the specimen does not permit microscopic examination.

I. The following are exempt from the policy:

General Surgery

- Anal pustular tissue
- Portions of thymus excised during median sternotomy

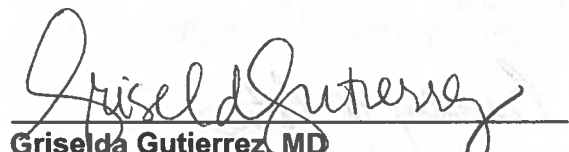
Plastic Surgery

- Skin and bone from aesthetic cases

REVISED: 6/00, 10/13, 4/18, 1/22

REVIEWED: 2/99, 6/00, 2/02, 10/13, 4/18, 1/22

APPROVED BY: 
 Anish Mahajan, MD
 Chief Executive Officer
 Chief Medical Officer


 Griselda Gutierrez, MD
 Associate Chief Medical Officer


 Jason Black, MBA, DNP, RN
 Chief Nursing Officer



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Ophthalmology

- Extraocular muscle (resected for strabismus surgery)
- Vitreous humor
- Tenon's capsule

Ob-Gyn

- Placentas
- Intrauterine Contraceptives
- Contraceptive Implants

Emergency Medicine

- Anatomical parts obtained from minor wound debridement.
- Foreign objects removed during wound care management in the Emergency Department.
- Foreign objects removed from body orifices (e.g. nose, mouth, ear, vagina, and rectum) in the Emergency Department, except where documentation is desired for any of the above.

Family Medicine

- Newborn foreskins
- Minor skin tags
- Ingrown toenails

Breast Diagnostic Center

- Clear breast fluid from premenopausal patients

II. Macroscopic and Microscopic Examinations:

The Department of Pathology, Anatomic Pathology Section Pathologists will perform a gross (macroscopic) and microscopic examination on all samples submitted with the exception of the following, which will have macroscopic (gross) examinations only.

- Medico-legal specimens: (Bullets, knives, etc.), which will be kept sealed and securely stored
- Lens(es) from the eye
- Stones from gallbladder or kidney
- Foreign bodies, hard objects, hardware, contraceptive devices, prosthetic devices, stents, and calcified objects.

Reviewed and approved by:
Medical Executive Committee 1/2022

Beverley A. Petrie, M.D.
President, Professional Staff Association