

**OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER  
DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY  
POLICY & PROCEDURE**

**NUMBER: 11864  
VERSION: 1**

**SUBJECT/TITLE: SS 004 - SPECIAL STAINS QUALITY CONTROL**

**POLICY:** Quality control measures must be adhered to in order to achieve optimal special staining results.

**PURPOSE:** To ensure that the final staining results are of optimal quality.

**DEPARTMENTS: PATHOLOGY & LABORATORY SERVICES**

**DEFINITIONS:** Positive Tissue Control: Tissue known to exhibit the properties required for the specified special stain to be performed.  
Unknown Tissue: Tissue unknown to exhibit the properties required for the specified special stain to be performed (patient tissue)

**PROCEDURE:**

- I. Verification of New Positive Tissue controls**
  - A. All prospective controls samples shall be tested (stained) for reactivity before being utilized with patient tissue specimens.
  - B. Submit the stained control slide with HIS 96 Form 2 (refer to attachment) to the pathologist for approval.
  - C. If the control slide is approved, it may be utilized.
  - D. If the control is not approved, it may not be utilized.
- II. Positive Control Slides**
  - A. Positive tissue control slides are prepared by placing the known positive tissue on the bottom of a microscope slide via the microtomy procedure.
  - B. The pathologist shall verify and record quality of the positive tissue control on HIS 96 Form 2 prior to or concurrently with the reporting of patient results.
  - C. If the pathologist does not approve the positive control, then the staining procedure must be repeated on both the patient control and unknown tissue until approval can be obtained. (A new positive control may be required.)
- III. Preparation of Patient Unknown Slides**
  - A. The unknown tissue may be placed on the same slide above the positive tissue control or on a separate slide via the microtomy procedure.
  - B. A known positive control must be included with each unknown tissue that is to be stained. However, if the pathologist has ordered the same special stain on multiple cases, then the cases may share the positive control. The sharing of a positive must be indicated on HIS 96 Form. (second page)

**SUBJECT/TITLE: SS 004 - SPECIAL STAINS QUALITY CONTROL**

**Policy Number: 11864**

**Page Number: 2**

**IV. Submission to Pathologist**

- A. The histology technician shall review the positive control to ensure that all the appropriate staining properties are present.
- B. Contingent on quality verification, the slides are submitted to the pathologist with HIS 96 Form 2.

**V. Pathologist Review**

- A. All staining comments will be noted on HIS 96 Form 2 for technical review and/or corrective actions.
- B. If the pathologist is not satisfied with the staining results, he/she may request a staining repeat.

**VI. Introduction of New Stains**

- A. Identify a positive tissue control for the new special stain.
- B. After optimizing the staining conditions, perform the new special stain on the tissue sample selected. (An immunohistochemistry microarray control slide may be utilized, if approval is obtained from the pathologist.)
- C. Submit the stained control slide along with HIS 96 Form 2 for approval.
- D. If the pathologist approves the results of the stained slide, then the stain may be utilized on patient tissues.
- E. If the pathologist does not approve the staining results, the histology technician will reoptimize the new stain until approval can be achieved.

**VII. Verification of New Staining Kits**

- A. All new Artisan staining kits will be verified via old/new lot comparisons. If the new lot does not meet the established standard, then the appropriate corrective action(s) will ensue. The corrective actions can include the following:
  - B. The staining procedure can be repeated.
  - C. The staining protocol can be reviewed and adjusted as appropriate.
  - D. The positive control can be reviewed and adjusted as appropriate.

References:	
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