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HEALTH CARE CORPORATION OF ST. JOHN'S  
 PERIOPERATIVE PROGRAM  
 OPERATING ROOM POLICY MANUAL  
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## SPECIMEN CARE

Specimens in the O.R. may include blood, body fluids, soft tissue, skin, bone, teeth, foreign bodies, and prosthetics.

### POLICY

1. No specimens will be given to the patient.
2. All specimens are recorded on the *Perioperative Record*, identifying the name of the specimen and the destination. The specimen container must be labeled on the side with patient addressograph, name of specimen, number of specimen, surgeon and date.
3. If there is more than one specimen, each specimen is numbered sequentially on the specimen container, corresponding with the documentation on the requisition / *Perioperative Record*.
4. All specimens for pathology are recorded in the pathology book, identifying patient name, MCP number and number of specimens for pathology.
5. Specimens for routine pathology are placed in a container with 20:1 formalin with specimen.
6. Complete appropriate laboratory requisition(s).
7. Resected specimens / foreign objects must be sent to Pathology, if no other destination.

### PROCEDURE

#### ***Scrub Nurse***

1. Handle specimen, so there is no damage to the tissue.
2. Confine and contain specimen in dish/basin on the surgical set-up.
3. Confirm with surgeon the name of the specimen.
4. Confirm with surgeon if specimen can be removed from the set-up and if fixative is required.
5. In the event of multiple specimens, pass off efficiently, following Steps 1, 2, 3 and 4. If surgeon requests specimen to remain on the surgical set-up, separate and label specimens individually on paper drape with sterile marking pen.

#### ***Circulating Nurse***

1. Confirm the name of the specimen and labeling with the scrub nurse. Label the container following confirmation.
2. Receive specimen in appropriate container based on size/destination, following confine and contain principles.
3. Follow the specimen chart in the *Guidelines for the Management of Specimens - Policy Number IX-j-11*.