

EASTERN HEALTH
 PERIOPERATIVE PROGRAM
 OPERATING ROOM POLICY MANUAL
 ISSUING AUTHORITY: *Marilyn Kelling*

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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* and appropriate requisition, 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 specimens, surgeon and date. Abbreviations must not be used.
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. Confirm with circulating nurse:
 - (a) patient identification,
 - (b) name of specimen,
 - (c) specimen preparation / destination.

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6. In the event of multiple specimens, pass off efficiently, following Steps 1, 2, and 3.
7. 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. Label the container following confirmation of:
 - (a) patient identification,
 - (b) name of specimen,
 - (c) specimen preparation / destination / surgeon.
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.***