

Pathology Specimen Exclusion and Microscopic Exemption Lists

In accordance with recommendations put forth by the College of American (CAP), and in coordination with Lehigh Valley Hospital medical staff, the Department of Pathology has compiled lists of specimens that have been deemed exempt from mandatory submission for examination and specimens considered for gross examination only and exempt from microscopic examination.

This document is of special importance as it relates to failed medical devices that may have contributed to patient injury, any failed device for which litigation is pending and device subject to tracking under the Safe Medical Devices Act of 1990.

Specimens Exempt from Submission to the Pathology Department

1. The exemption applies only to specimens that have not contributed to patient illness, injury, or death.
2. The treating physician can request pathology examination of any specimen on these exemption lists at his/her discretion.
3. The pathologist can perform exam at his/her clinical discretion on any specimen on these exemption lists.
4. Those specimens that are not submitted should be documented as to their removal and disposition in an alternate method. Documentation of specimen disposal by treating physician in the medical record is required.
5. All specimens submitted for cytology will be examined.
6. Exemption List:
 - a. Cataracts
 - b. Gastrostomy tubes, myringotomy tubes
 - c. Staples
 - d. Excess tissue from renal transplant
 - e. Vein remnants from renal transplant
 - f. Vein remnants from cardiac surgery
 - g. Placentas from uncomplicated pregnancies that appear normal at time of delivery (those that do not meet institutional criteria for submission)
 - h. Skin (including breast skin) removed during cosmetic or reconstructive procedure
 - i. Normal tissue removed during cosmetic or reconstructive procedure with the exception of breast parenchymal tissue unless a waiver signed by the patient is part of the medical record.
 - j. Breast Implants (except at the request of the patient for receipt)
 - k. Sternotomy wires
 - l. Teeth, Dental appliances, dentures, crowns
 - m. Pessary
 - n. Fat removed from liposuction
 - o. Meniscus
 - p. Foreskin from newborn (A newborn is defined as a neonatal infant who is less than 29 days old.)
 - q. Inguinal hernia sacs
 - r. Hydrocele sacs in patients less than 10 years of age
 - s. Medical devices (i.e., catheters, stents, pacemakers) removed at end of useful life
 - t. Hardware (surgical, orthopedic) removed at end of useful life
 - u. Middle ear ossicles
 - v. Saphenous vein from coronary bypass

- w. Intervertebral discs
- x. Tissue removed in the treatment of sleep apnea
- y. Routine pediatric tonsil (patients \leq age 18)

Surgical Specimens Exempt from Microscopic Examination (Gross Only)

1. The exemption applies only to specimens that have not contributed to patient illness, injury, or death.
2. The treating physician can request pathology examination of any specimen on these exemption lists at his/her discretion.
3. The pathologist can perform exam at his/her clinical discretion on any specimen on these exemption lists.
4. Soft tissue attached to the specimens listed below should be submitted for microscopic examination at the clinical discretion of the pathologist.
5. Gross Only List:
 - a. Breast Implants (at the request of the patient for receipt)
 - b. Calculus
 - c. Foreign Body (non-organic)
 - d. Hardware (trauma management), surgical/orthopedic
 - e. Intrauterine contraceptive devices without attached soft tissue
 - f. Medical devices (catheters, stents, pacemakers, etc.) that have malfunctioned.
 - g. Varicose vein
 - h. Ligament
 - i. Ribs removed to gain access (unless history of malignancy)