



# Memorandum

**Date:** March 3, 2016  
**To:** Peter Lougheed Hospital Surgeons and OR Nursing Staff  
**From:** Dr Andrew Schell, PLC Laboratory Site Leader, Calgary Laboratory Services  
**Re:** **Large Specimen Submission to PLC Laboratory**

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**Key Messages:**

All large specimens resected from PLC operating rooms should be submitted **fresh** and sent to the laboratory hourly by porter between 0800 to 1430 hours.

**Importance:**

- This practice will standardize specimen management across the Calgary Zone and facilitate the appropriate prosecution of organs (including ancillary testing / tumour bank collection).
- There is no change to frozen section and lymphoma case delivery.

**Action Required:**

- Organs to be submitted fresh include:
  - Breast (excluding breast reduction specimens)
  - Uterus / hysterectomy specimens
  - Ovaries
  - Colon, small bowel segmental resections
  - Stomach resections
  - Kidneys
  - Thyroid/head and neck tumours (skin tumours are excluded /submitted in formalin)
  - Adrenal glands
- Submit these specimens with standard AP requisitions unless a frozen section is required.
- Between 1430 and 0800 hrs, place all resected specimens in formalin to be collected in the OR specimen holding area. Continue to open bowels and uteri to ensure appropriate fixation of mucosa.
- Submit all small organs in formalin for routine collection in the OR specimen holding area. Spontaneous losses (products of conception / D&C for fetal tissue) are submitted fresh but can be retained in the OR specimen holding area for routine collection.
- Between 1430 and 0800 hrs and weekends, send spontaneous losses fresh to the laboratory for refrigeration.
- Frozen section, breast, tumour bank and lymphoma cases should be submitted fresh but STAT and with the appropriate requisition.

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

Dr Andrew Schell @ 403-943-4301 or [andrew.schell@cls.ab.ca](mailto:andrew.schell@cls.ab.ca)

**This memorandum has been reviewed and approved by:**

Leland Baskin, MD, MS, FCAP, FACB, Medical Director, VP Medical Operations, Calgary Laboratory Services