

Exempt Tissue Guidelines

Effective Date: March 1, 2016

This document is applicable at site(s):

**CCI DVH FSH GNH LEH MIS RAH RED SGH SPK STO
UAH**

Exempt Tissue Guidelines

Purpose

This document outlines which tissue samples do not need to be submitted to the Anatomical Pathology Laboratory and provides guidelines on what to do if a sample from the list is received.

Policy

The Hospitals Act: Operations of Approved Hospitals Regulation (247/90; Consolidated up to 170/2012) states that “all tissues removed at operation, with the exception of those listed in subsection (5) shall be forwarded to a pathologist registered in that specialty in Alberta”.

Tissues exempt from this Regulation are (subsection 5):

- a) Amputation stumps – secondary
- b) Blood clots
- c) Bone fragments and ligaments
- d) Bony ossicles (ears)
- e) Cartilage, external ear (plastic)
- f) Fingers
- g) Foreign bodies (including bone plates, nails and screws)
- h) Hernial sac
- i) Hydrocele sac
- j) Intervertebral discs
- k) Meningocele sac
- l) Nasal septa when removed for obstruction only
- m) Optic lens
- n) Prepuces
- o) Ribs removed incidental to chest surgery
- p) Scar tissue
- q) Semilunar cartilages
- r) Teeth
- s) Tendon segments removed incidental to orthopaedic procedures
- t) Toes
- u) Toe and fingernails
- v) Tonsils and adenoids (patients under 40)
- w) Vaginal wall fragments (plastic repair)
- x) Varicocele
- y) Vein strippings

Although not listed above, if we receive any tissue where the container and/or requisition are labeled “**discard**”, the specimen is **not** discarded. It should be reviewed with a pathologist and handled as advised by the pathologist. The tissue will always be held for 8 weeks.

Procedure:

If	Then
The laboratory receives an “exempt” tissue specimen	The laboratory will process the specimen, assuming the surgeon requires a surgical report.

References

Hospitals Act - Operations of Approved Hospitals Regulation 247/90