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 stripplings
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:**

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<th>If</th>
<th>Then</th>
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<td>The laboratory receives an “exempt” tissue specimen</td>
<td>The laboratory will process the specimen, assuming the surgeon requires a surgical report.</td>
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**References**

Hospitals Act - Operations of Approved Hospitals Regulation 247/90