

**Title: TISSUES EXEMPTED FOR PATHOLOGICAL EXAM**

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| Location: Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center (SJRMC) – Mishawaka and Plymouth |                                   | Department: Medical Staff<br>Services  |

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**POLICY:**

1. Tissue specimens removed during surgical procedures are sent to the laboratory for examination unless they appear on this tissue exemption list. Appropriate documentation of the procedure is required on the patient chart to qualify for exemption.
2. Tissues appearing on the exemption list may be sent to the laboratory for gross only and/or microscopic examination upon written order from the physicians
3. Operating Room staff to confirm that exempt tissue may be released.
4. Specimen exemption list:
  - A. Adipose Tissue trimmings removed incidentally
  - B. Bone and cartilage from nasal surgery
  - C. Bone and tissue removed during surgery for plastic procedures or airway obstruction, with the exception that all curettings be examined
  - D. Bone fragments from repair of hallux valgus
  - E. Bone removed for replacement arthroplasty
  - F. Bone removed from bunionectomies, arthroplasties, and heel spur resection
  - G. Bone removed during laminectomy
  - H. Bone resected from knee joint during total knee replacement
  - I. Bowel resected at colostomy revision (it is recommended that if the original surgery was for a malignancy, the tissue should be examined)
  - J. Bullets, which are released to law enforcement representatives
  - K. Cataract lens
  - L. Catheters, any type (includes ports)
  - M. Ear bones
  - N. Excess skin removed by cosmetic surgery
  - O. Excess vaginal mucosa
  - P. Eyelid papilloma
  - Q. Femoral heads surgically excised in therapy of osteoarthritis (all fractured femoral heads should be submitted to rule out malignancy)
  - R. Foreign bodies
  - S. Foreskin recovered at circumcision
  - T. Hemorrhoids

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- U. Hernia sac (it is recommended that any portion of the specimen thought to be a regional lymph node, or other nodules of uncertain etiology, be examined by pathology)
- V. Intra-uterine contraceptive devices
- W. Kidney stones
- X. Meniscus
- Y. Old scar tissue
- Z. Middle ear ossicles
- AA. Orthopedic appliances
- BB. Placentas from non-complicated pregnancies
- CC. Portion of rib removed to allow for operative exposure (if patient has a malignancy, it is recommended that the rib be examined for metastatic tumor in the marrow)
- DD. Skin scar tissue
- EE. Skin shaving biopsies for viral warts
- FF. Teeth or fragment of tooth (dispose of sharps)
- GG. Tissue removed during carpal tunnel surgery
- HH. Toenails
- II. Tonsils and/or adenoids in patients age 21 and under
- JJ. Tissue removed during surgery for respiratory sleep disorders (uvula and soft palate)
- KK. Uvula removed for breathing obstruction
- LL. Vascular plaque and thrombus
- MM. Vein segments from ligation and stripping procedures; segmental veins, peripheral or cardiac and from cardiovascular bypass surgery

**References/Standards:**

- Policy Origin Date: February 1996
- Review Date:
  - a. Mishawaka - December 2009, December 2012, December 2015, December 2018, February 2020
  - b. Plymouth – February 2020
- Revised Date: August 2005, March 2020
- Effective Date: February 1996
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- Policy 119