###### Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to prevent the cross-contamination of specimens in the histology laboratory: processing, embedding, microtomy and slide preparation.

1. **Principle**

Extraneous tissue or contaminants can influence and jeopardize the diagnosis and cause harm to patients. Efforts to prevent contamination during the histology workflow process can help reduce this potential harm.

###### Supplies

1. **Personal protective equipment (PPE)**
2. Disposable fluid resistant gown
3. Nitrile gloves
4. Face shields or goggles
5. Plastic Apron over disposable lab coat (optional)
6. **Instrument and supplies**
7. Tissue Processor
8. Embedding Center
9. Microtome
10. Automated stainer
11. Waterbath
12. Slide drying oven
13. Base molds
14. Smooth tipped forceps
15. Gauze
16. Cotton tipped swabs
17. Disinfectant
18. Bleach

1. **Procedure**
2. Tissue Processing

See RA.HI.PR.EQ.013 and RA.HI.PR.EQ.015 Tissue Processor Maintenance

1. Embedding Tissue
2. See RA.HI.PR.EQ.009 Embedding Center Maintenance
3. See RA.HI.PR.RM.011 Slide Identity Tracking
4. Open only ONE cassette at a time
5. Open lids, mesh bags, and lens papers carefully to avoid specimen fragments from “flipping” outward and potentially being lost
6. Wipe forceps between each specimen. DO NOT USE SERRATED FORCEPS.
7. Embed any pieces that appear to “not belong” or to be contamination from grossing or handling into a cassette labeled “FLOATER” with date and tech’s initials along with possible surgical case number from what you believe to be the intended specimen. “FLOATER” block must be sectioned and stained slide review by pathologist same day as embedded.
8. Microtomy
9. See RA.HI.PR.EQ.011 Microtome Maintenance
10. See RA.HI.PR.RM.011 Slide Identity Tracking
11. Scan and section ONE cassette at a time
12. Floatation Bath
13. See RA.HI.PR.EQ.006 Floatation Bath Maintenance
14. Slide Staining
15. See RA.HI.PR.EQ.008 Auto H&E Stainer Maintenance
16. Coverslipping
17. See RA.HI.PR.EQ.003 Coverslipper Maintenance
18. **Results**

Eliminate cross-contamination from one specimen to another

**Authorized Reviewers**

**Medical Director, Anatomic Pathology**

**Chief, Surgical Pathology**

##### Document Control

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##### Document History

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| Signature | Date | **Revision #** |  | **Related Documents**  **Reviewed/**  **Updated** |
| Prepared by: J.Lehmann | 1-15-2019 | **00** |  |  |
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