

## FRESH SPECIMENS FOR PATHOLOGY

### \*\*HELPFUL HINTS\*\*

*Why is specimen being brought to the lab without formalin fixative??*

If a specimen is brought to the lab fresh, the first question to ask is why?

- Are labs being ordered before histology processing? After tissue is taken for labs, formalin can be added.
- Is it a lymph node for lymphoma? If yes, pathologist needs called because specimen needs placed in special fixative.
- Is it a lymph node for melanoma? If yes, it should have formalin placed on the specimen – no special testing is ever done on a lymph node removed for melanoma.
- Is it a products of conception (missed abortion) specimen? If no chromosome/cytogenetics are being requested, formalin should be added. If being sent fresh for chromosomes, the pathologist needs called.

If the above questions cannot be answered by the nurse/tech bringing down the specimen, **DO NOT accept a specimen until OR staff can answer why it is being sent fresh.** If they indicate they don't think there is any further testing, let them know you will be adding formalin and NO testing can be performed after it has been added.

**Any additional questions can be directed to Bobbie, Debbie S., or the pathologist on call.**

Questions?

Bobbie – 309-256-1149

Debbie – 309-256-9843

(If still uncertain what to do, please contact Bobbie or Debbie or Jim for clarification.)