

AlfredHealth	Alfred Pathology Services		
	Document No:	CD_SP_0165	Authorised By: Shanta Perera
	Version No:	2.4	Issue Date: 09/09/2020

PRECIOUS SPECIMENS

1. Purpose

This procedure explains how the laboratory will handle samples, at triage, having inadequate labelling or a collection issue and that cannot be rejected due to there being special circumstances surrounding the patient or the sample itself. These samples are deemed as 'Precious' and can only be accepted for analysis after a Pathologist or Registrar gives approval to proceed.

2. Scope & Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of CSP staff working in the triage area to identify samples that might be precious and immediately notify the relevant pathologist or registrar.

It is the responsibility of the pathologist or registrar to review the circumstances surrounding the sample or samples and to notify CSP staff if the sample can be accepted for testing or must be rejected.

It is the responsibility of the CSP staff, after completion of registration of the Precious sample, to notify relevant lab staff of the special registration performed for the sample.

It is the responsibility of the CSP supervisor to ensure that staff working in the triage area understand this procedure.

3. Definitions

Precious Sample: A sample that cannot be recollected due to extenuating circumstances and therefore is deemed as 'Precious'.

CSP: Central Specimen Reception

4. Procedure

The referenced chart lists examples of specimens and possible reasons for deeming a sample as precious.

If a sample is suspected to be Precious, the referenced approval form must be completed and submitted to a pathologist or registrar supervising the area that the test is performed in.

- Once notification that the sample is to be accepted as Precious is received back from the pathologist, the sample is to be processed as appropriate for the sample type and test.
- Repeat registration (DOE) if test requests have been cancelled.
- *Add new test code, **PREC***
- Scan Acceptance form in Cerner and complete the result entry for the test **PREC**
- Select Precious Sample for result*
- Distribute sample/s to the relevant testing areas.
- Ensure that the person you hand the specimen over to is aware that it is Precious.

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4.1. Examples of PRECIOUS SPECIMENS

Specimen	Problem	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Baby – ALL samples ➤ BAL / BW (bronchial wash) ➤ Bone Marrow ➤ Code Blue/MET call ➤ CSF ➤ 2 hr <i>post dose</i> Cyclosporine levels ➤ Drug Levels from HITH, A@H ➤ FLUIDS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drain Fluids - Joint Fluids - Pleural Fluid ➤ Line Tips (IV, CVL, PICC, ART.) ➤ Renal Stones ➤ Stem Cells ➤ Tissue ➤ Wound Swabs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Incomplete labelling*** ➤ Unlabelled Specimen <p>***</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collection certification not completed - Slip has no patient info, specimen correctly labelled - Specimen and slip partly labelled –minimum ID criteria met between them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mismatch ➤ NOT signed off in Power Chart Specimen Collect
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accept specimen 2. Complete Precious Specimen Form 3. Contact Pathologist or Registrar 4. Add PREC test code in Cerner 5. Scan a copy of the approval form against the PREC code 	

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5. Related Documents

[CD_SP_FA_0165](#) Precious Specimen Acceptance Form

[CD_SP_0189](#) Specimen Triage Procedure

6. References

AS ISO 15189 (2013) – Medical Laboratories – Requirements for Quality and Competence