

UW Medicine - Pathology

100-05-01-01

Safety, Infection Control Management Policy

Adopted Date: 05/21/10

Revision Date: 04/18/11

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines to prevent the transmission of infection in Anatomic Pathology.

Note: UWMC has a policy of Standard Precautions for body substances (SP). Barrier protection should routinely be used in the handling of all tissues and body fluids. Some specifics are listed below.

SCOPE

This policy is to be adhered to by all Anatomic Pathology personnel, including staff, faculty, residents and fellows.

POLICY

- There is no smoking, eating, drinking, application of cosmetics and lip balm, mouth pipetting or manipulation of contact lenses in the laboratories of Anatomic Pathology, except in areas designated as clean areas, in which specimens, gloves, and personal protective equipment are not allowed. It is recommended that contact lenses not be worn in the laboratory without additional protective eyewear, such as goggles.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment must be worn, including a protective apron or laboratory coat to protect against chemical splashes or spills, cold, heat, moisture and radiation. Staff members are to use protective apparel, including masks, goggles, face shields, gloves, and other special clothing or footwear as needed. To prevent spreading contamination to family and friends, laboratory coats should be removed before leaving the laboratory.
- All fresh tissue removed at surgery is to be refrigerated if not promptly fixed.
- All retained tissue is to be fixed as quickly as possible in 10% neutral buffered formalin, or other fixative, as appropriate.
- There is no recapping, bending, breaking, or removing needles from disposable syringes. Whenever possible, safety syringes are to be used.
- During description and dissection of surgical specimens, participants are to wear water repellent aprons, facial protection, and gloves.

- Special transmission-based precautions for diagnosed Bloodborne and Airborne infections may include limiting the number of participants to be present in the room during study of the tissue, or thorough fixation prior to extensive examinations.
- The surgical specimen gross description area and frozen section areas are to be cleaned daily with an approved hospital disinfectant. Instruments used in the gross and frozen section areas are to be cleaned daily and disinfected with an approved hospital disinfectant.
- The red receptacles labeled "BioMedical Waste / Biohazard", which are located in the Gross Room, Autopsy area, Frozen Section Room and in each laboratory, are to be used for contaminated paper, specimen containers, etc. These are picked up by the Environmental Services Department on a daily basis for discard. Glass contaminated with biohazardous substances is to be placed in an appropriate box container lined with an autoclavable bag.
- Freezing microtomes must be cleaned after each use with 70% alcohol. To decontaminate the cryostats they must be wiped down with the appropriate germicidal disinfectant and 70% alcohol.
- Glassware and glass slides are managed in accordance to the HMC/ UWMC Laboratory Glassware wastestream process. Because glass slides may contain PHI and tissue, the glass is managed as biomedical waste. The glassware boxes need to be lined with a red biohazard bag and must be labeled with a biohazard label when sealed.
- The autopsy room participants are to wear scrub suits, water repellent aprons, masks, eye protection, gloves, and respirators when indicated. Each participant must contact Respiratory Care and UWMC Employee Health Center for information about the N95 fit testing program.
- At the completion of an autopsy, instruments are to be cleaned and disinfected with an approved hospital disinfectant.
- The autopsy area is a restricted area to be visited only by health care providers at UW Medicine, or others with educational, clinical or research involvement in the autopsy. Certain Anatomic Pathology approved educational activities using preserved teaching specimens may also take place in the BB-250 facilities.
- All surfaces and instruments must be cleaned with an approved hospital disinfectant when contaminated.
- All tissues and other solid waste are to be disposed of by incineration, whether they have been fixed or fresh. Tissue is to be packaged in specifically identifiable, waterproof plastic bags, and placed inside the appropriate corrugated cardboard containers before incineration. Tissues designated for incineration may be stored in a designated autopsy refrigerator or in another unrefrigerated location in Anatomic Pathology until incineration. There is a separate Anatomic Pathology procedure, Tissue Discard

procedure 6000-01-01-02, which delineates the guidelines for incineration of discarded pathology tissue at UWMC.

- Employees are encouraged to refer to the Healthcare Epidemiology and Infection Control websites for both UWMC and HMC for additional information about Precautions System. The site also contains links to Bloodborne Pathogen yearly updates.

REFERENCE

Tissue Discard procedure, 6000-01-01-02

University of Washington Healthcare Epidemiology and Infection Control website:

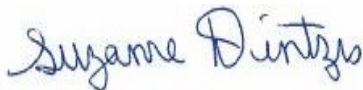
<https://uwmc.uwmedicine.org/sites/PoliciesProcedures/Infectioncontrol/Pages/Home.aspx>

Harborview Medical Center Infection Control website:

<https://hmc.uwmedicine.org/BU/infectioncontrol/Pages/default.aspx>

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5/24/13

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