**UW Medicine - Pathology**

6000-01-01-02

Tissue Discard Procedure

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| Adopted Date: 11/22/08  Review Date: 06/22/09  Revision Date: 10/21/10 |

PURPOSE

To properly dispose of wet tissue two weeks after the case is signed out. All specimens are stored on shelves in the Autopsy Store Room and are kept together based on the date they were dictated. Unless the tissue has been identified previously by hold sticker all specimens are discarded two weeks after the date the report was finalized.

PROCEDURE

1. The Symbol hand held Pocket PC is used to identify tissue for discard.

**Using the Symbol device:**

* Press start and scroll to specimen inventory
* Press specimen inventory
* Choose your account and press Log On
* Enter your PIN information.
* Press Log On.
* System is now ready to scan barcode labels on specimen containers.
* Press button on upper left hand of device and hold scanner next to specimen label bar code.
* Once the barcode is read, the device will beep and display results.
* The screen may show RED (no), Yellow (maybe), or Green (yes).
* Red indicates that the specimen should not be discarded
* Yellow indicates the specimen has been identified to be held
* Green identifies the specimen in ready for discard.
* If the barcode is not read by the scanner, the surgical number can be manually entered in the surgical number field.
* The display shows Specimen type, MRN, Patient name, and Case complete status.
* Once discard is complete press exit to log out.

**Tissue Discard Process**

1. Tissue discard is done weekly in the Autopsy room and takes place every Wednesday.
2. A strainer is placed in the waste formalin sink located under the fume hood. Specimen containers are emptied into the strainer.
3. Once the strainer is full and all formalin has drained the tissue is transferred to a cardboard box lined with two biohazard bags. Medical devices should be set aside and identified separately for waste management. The cardboard box is kept under the hood until filled and ready to seal:

Medical devices are a variety of items:

* 1. Heart mate - cases associated with cardiac specimens for the cardiac Attendings
  2. Heart mate (battery) - surgical cases assigned to the Gross Resident
  3. Tracheal Stent
  4. Peritoneal Catheter (plastic)
  5. Breast Implants

For part A: Fourteen days after sign out, cleaned and stored to send back to Risk Management.

For part B: Fourteen days after being signed out, cleaned and stored send to Environment Health and Safety.

For part C, D & E: Fourteen days after being signed out, discard into the red biohazard box that is picked up by EH&S.

1. Once the box is ½ to ¾ full (30-40 lbs limit) the bag is tied off, the box is sealed with packing tape. Multiple boxes are needed.
2. The empty containers are placed in a separate biohazard bag and set aside to be disposed of by Environmental Services.
3. The boxes of discard tissue are then taken to the Autopsy Suite.
4. The boxes are then stacked for delivery to the incinerator.
5. Tissue is typically incinerated once a week.

RELATED DOCUMENT

Tissue Discard Module

Written By: Director Approval:

(Signature and Date) (Signature and Date)

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Supervisor / Manager