

Anatomical pathology services:

Autopsy (performed at HCH only)

Autopsy Criteria:

Deaths in which an autopsy should be encouraged may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Deaths in which the autopsy may help to explain unknown and unanticipated medical complications.
2. All deaths in which the cause of death or a major diagnosis is not known with certainty or legal grounds.
3. All obstetric deaths.
4. Deaths of patients who have participated in clinical trials (protocols) approved by HCH Institutional Review Boards (IRB).
5. All neonatal deaths, unless death occurs without medical attendance at or after delivery (this would then be a Medical Examiner's case).
6. All pediatric deaths.
7. Natural deaths, which are subject to, but waived by a forensic medical jurisdiction, such as deaths occurring in the hospital within 48 hours of admission unrelated to a known medical condition/disease.

Exceptions to Autopsy when Criteria are met: Autopsies will not normally be performed at Holy Cross Hospital under the following circumstances:

1. Next of kin refuses autopsy.
2. Religious beliefs that conflict with an autopsy being performed.
3. The patient is known or suspected to have a serious communicable disease and the hospital lacks the necessary equipment expected to be effective in protecting HCH personnel directly involved with the autopsy.
4. The patient expired prior to the arrival in the Emergency Department.
5. If in the opinion of the hospital Pathologist, the autopsy would be inconsistent with a requested organ donation. The nursing staff is responsible for advising the pathologist of the organ donation request and the patient's family is also notified.
6. The family requests to have an autopsy performed by an outside Pathologist. In this situation, the family is responsible for making autopsy arrangements to be performed. The family is fiscally responsible for any charges from the autopsy performed by the outside pathologist.

All Autopsies are submitted through Bed Management.

Bone Marrow specimens

Bone Marrow specimens need to be labeled clearly with the patients label and specimen type and delivered to Hematology accompanied by a Surgical Pathology form. The biopsy can be submitted in saline or formalin , and accompanied by aspirate material in green and lavender top tubes if available.

FNA & Non-Gyn Cytology Specimens

All specimens must be accompanied by a Cytology Requisition Form.

Surgical Pathology Specimens

All specimens must be accompanied by a Surgical Pathology Requisition Form, preferably in formalin, although fresh specimens with or without saline are acceptable. Specimens submitted for Frozen section must be fresh (not in formalin). Specimens that need to be submitted for Flow Cytometry, cytogenetics, and other studies must be submitted fresh, as applicable. Natera, Mayo, or any other kit based specimen needs to have the specimens submitted according to the kits instructions. Kits may be requested from the accessioning techs in the Gross Room.

Gross Only Specimens:

- Accessory Digits.
- Bunions & Hammertoes.
- Extraocular muscle from corrective surgical procedures.
- Inguinal hernia sacs from patient's older than 16 years of age.
- Nasal bone and cartilage from rhinoplasty or septoplasty.
- Prosthetic breast implants.
- Tonsils and adenoids from patient's less than 8 years of age.
- Torn meniscus.
- Umbilical hernia sacs from patient's less than 16 years of age.
- Varicose veins.

Specimens EXEMPT from Surgical Pathology Department:

- Orthopedic Hardware.
- Foreign Bodies.
- Cataracts.
- Scars from previous surgeries, unless there is a history of malignancy.
- Arthroscopic Shavings.
- Tissue excised during septoplasties.
- Bone donated to the bone bank.
- Dental appliances.
- Fat removed by liposuction.
- Foreign bodies such as bullets or other medicolegal evidence given directly to law enforcement.
- Intrauterine contraceptive devices without attached soft tissue.
- Medical devices such as catheters, gastrostomy tubes, myringotomy tubes, stents, and sutures that have not contributed to patients illness, injury, or death.
- Middle ear ossicles.
- Orthopedic hardware and other radio-opaque mechanical devices
- Placentas from uncomplicated pregnancies that appear normal at time of delivery.
- Rib segments or other tissue removed only for purposes of gaining surgical access, provided the patient doesn't not have a history of malignancy.
- Skin or other normal tissue removed during cosmetic or reconstructive procedure, provided the patient doesn't not have a history of malignancy.
- Teeth when there is no attached soft tissue.
- Therapeutic radioactive sources.
- Normal toenails and fingernails that are incidentally removed.