

**PETALUMA VALLEY HOSPITAL
MEDICAL STAFF POLICY**

TITLE: SURGICAL PATHOLOGY, GENERAL POLICIES

MANUAL: MEDICAL STAFF

Written By: Michael Repko, M.D.

Date Written: 7/94

Effective Date: 9/94

Reviewed/Revised: 9/98, 5/08, 3/11, 4/13, 12/16

Approval: Anthony Kosinski, M.D.
Medical Staff President

1. All specimens removed during a surgical procedure shall be sent to the hospital pathologist for evaluation. Exceptions to sending specimens may be made **ONLY** when another suitable means of verification of removal has been routinely employed **AND** when there is an authenticated operative or official report that documents the removal.
2. Specimens that by their very nature or condition do not permit fruitful examination may be exempt from the requirement of examination by a pathologist. This includes specimens known to rarely, if ever, show pathological change, and removal of which is highly visible postoperatively, such as the foreskin from the circumcision of a new born infant.
3. If **SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED BY THE ATTENDING SURGEON**, the following limited categories of specimens may be exempted as above:
 - a. Cataract
 - b. Surgical hardware
 - c. Foreign body
 - d. Portion of rib removed only to enhance operative exposure
 - e. Therapeutic radioactive sources
 - f. Traumatically injured members that have been amputated and for which examination for either medical or legal reasons is deemed not necessary
 - g. Foreign bodies (for example, bullets) that, for legal reasons, are given directly in the chain of custody to law enforcement representatives
 - h. Foreskin – newborn circumcision only
 - i. Teeth – provided the anatomic name or anatomic number of each tooth, is recorded in the clinical record
 - j. Normal tissue or scar tissue removed for cosmetic purposes only
 - k. Placentas that are grossly normal and have been removed in the course of uncomplicated operative and nonoperative obstetrics.
4. **IN ALL INSTANCES**, the surgical nurse shall send tissues removed during surgery to the hospital pathologist unless specifically listed in the foregoing list.