

Procedure for the Checking and Labelling of Specimens in the Operating Suite			
Manual: Area Perioperative Procedure Manual	Relates to Area Policy Version Number: Title:	Effective Date:	Review Date:

Aim:

Labelling of specimen containers and appropriate checking of pathology form against the specimens shall be uniform across GSAHS Perioperative sites

Standard:

NSW Health Policy Directive 2005_380 - Patient Identification – Correct Patient, Correct Procedure and Correct Site Model Policy

Scope:

Perioperative nursing staff
 Perioperative medical officers

Criteria:

Whenever specimens are taken in the Operating Suite

Contra Indications:

Safe Operating Procedures:

Clinical competency
 Standard precautions

PROCEDURE

- When a specimen is taken, the specimen shall be placed into a suitable container.
- The Instrument nurse shall verify with the surgeon whether the specimen is to be placed in formalin or whether there are special instructions.
- The instrument nurse shall verify with the surgeon the specimen type and labelling requirements.
- The circulating nurse will complete patient details and specimen name on the specimen container or utilise the patient’s sticky labels to identify the specimen.
- The instrument nurse and surgeon will visually check the specimen labels to ensure correct.
- The specimen can then be placed into the correctly identified specimen container utilising standard precautions and maintaining sterility of the specimen and scrub team.
- On completion of the procedure, the surgeon/medical officer will check the specimen labels against the pathology form and sign they are correct in the appropriate space on the Operating Room Registered Nurses Report.
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Documentation:

Medical officers will sign the Operating Room Registered Nurses Report (scrub sheet) in the appropriate space in the specimen section
They must check that the labels on the specimens are correct and that the pathology form is completed correctly and match the labelled specimens

Outcomes:

All specimens sent to pathology will have the correctly completed pathology form and the specimens will match the pathology form.

References:

Bibliography:

Appendices:

Consultation Process / List:

Title / Position	Title/Position Responded to Consultation

Created By:

Approved by:	Title:	Name:	Signature:	Date:
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