

Surgical Pathology

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Alomere Health Hospital Laboratory offers comprehensive pathology and laboratory medicine services to area clinicians. Alomere Health Hospital Pathology Department processes all surgical pathology specimens referred for examination, final diagnoses and other pertinent comments as appropriate. Specimen staining procedures including immunohistochemistry are performed as required. Results for routine cases are generally available 1 working day (Monday – Friday) following receipt and accessioning in our laboratory. Reports are delivered to your facility via electronic interface, or by courier if applicable. Telephone reports will be made on the initiative of Alomere Health Pathologists for unusual cases or when otherwise deemed appropriate.

All tissues (except tissue for frozen section examination, cultures, flow cytometry or crystal examination) must be submitted in an adequate volume of 10% formalin fixative. The tissue container must be tightly sealed, properly labeled and enclosed in a sealed biohazard bag. The accompanying Tissue Examination Request Form should include the following information: patient name, sex, date of birth, nature of specimen, clinical diagnosis, diagnosis code (ICD-10), other pertinent data, and the name and signature of the referring clinician. In addition, if you wish Alomere Health Laboratory to bill Medicare/Medicaid, other 3rd party payers and/or patients for surgical pathology services, please include patient address, Social Security Number, insurance company and patient policy number, Medicare or Medicaid number, and physician provider number.

If any questions should arise as to the proper handling of a tissue specimen, please call the Alomere Health Pathology office at 320-762-6068 for instructions.

Pathology specimens are considered inadequate if they include any of the following:

- Unlabeled or improperly identified specimen
- Improper fixative
- Contaminated specimens
- No surgeon's signature for histology specimens
- No requisition included

The submitting facility will be notified and corrective action taken as needed, which may include specimen rejection.

Cytology

Alomere Health Pathology offers a full range of diagnostic cytology services. Cytology specimens are examined by an American Society of Clinical Pathology certified cytotechnologist under the direct supervision of Board Certified Pathologists. A wide range of cytology specimens are examined by the pathology for abnormal cells: breast, cerebrospinal fluid, cervical/vaginal (both ThinPrep® and conventional), gastric, intestinal, peritoneal, pleural, pulmonary, and urinary. Tzanck smears and semen morphology are also performed. In addition, Alomere Health Pathologists examine fine-needle aspiration specimens from various body sites, determining specimen adequacy and specimen results. Alomere Health Pathologists review all smears showing any deviation from normality including inflammatory changes. All non-gynecological specimens are referred to a pathology for final interpretation and report.

All specimens should be properly labeled with patient identification. The cytology requisition should include: patient name, date of birth, address, billing information, specimen source and diagnosis code (ICD-10). Provide facility name, submitting physician, and date of collection. Also include any pertinent clinical information.

Cervical/Endocervical/Vaginal (GYN) Cytology

Conventional pap smears and liquid-based monolayer slides (ThinPrep®) are accepted at Alomere Health Pathology. GYN cytology results are reported using the 2014 Bethesda system. For Medicare patients and patients dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid, pap smears are subject to frequency limitations. Collect an Advance Beneficiary Notice (ABN) when appropriate.

ThinPrep® Pap: After specimen is obtained, rinse directly into the ThinPrep vial. Label the vial with at least two patient identifiers and send with completed cytology request form. The specimen is prepared on the ThinPrep® processor in the cytology laboratory. Human papillomavirus (HPV) testing can be performed using the ThinPrep® vial contents. HPV co-testing in patients between the ages of 30-65 is recommended, as well as testing ASCUS pap results regardless of age. If reflex or co-testing is not indicated on the original order, please call 320-762-6068 to order the test.

Conventional Pap: Smears should be immediately fixed in 95% alcohol or sprayed with an aerosol fixative. Label the slide with at least two patient identifiers.

Non-GYN Cytology

Brushings, fluids, sputum, urine or washing can be refrigerated and sent in the fresh state *if they can be delivered promptly to the pathology laboratory*. If there is an anticipated delay (over 24 hours from collection time), add up to 20 mL of well-mixed specimen to a CytoLyt® Fixative vial. Please label the vial with at least two identifiers including patient name, as well as specimen source. If there is a delay and CytoLyt® Fixative is not on-hand, please refer to individual test listings for detailed cytology specimen preparation instructions.

Frozen Section Studies

Alomere Health Pathology offers frozen section microscopic interpretation of tissue specimens on a routine and emergency basis 24 hours a day. Arrangements should be made by telephone consultation with one of our pathologists prior to submitting the specimen for frozen section examination. Tissues for frozen section examination must be transported and submitted to Alomere Health Pathology in the fresh state (without formalin fixative). The specimen must include patient identification and specimen source. The results of frozen section examination and interpretation will be immediately telephoned by the Alomere Health Pathologists to the submitting surgeon / physician.