

**SBAR: Surgical Specimen Test Orders**

**Situation:**

Surgical specimens are being submitted for laboratory testing with absent or unclear orders. This has caused occasional delays and errors in processing these important and invasively collected specimens.

**Background:**

There is significant variability in order entry tools and methods for surgical and invasively collected specimens. In addition to Epic electronic orders, there are also various hospital forms that are currently being used to submit specimens to the laboratory for pathology or other clinical laboratory testing.

**Assessment:**

To mitigate patient safety risks and eliminate variability in the process we will be limiting the acceptable formats for laboratory test requests on surgical and invasively collected specimens.

**Recommendation:**

**Effective Tuesday, March 28th, valid test orders will only be accepted in one of the following formats:**

1. **Electronic orders in Epic with Collection Manager/Lab barcoded labels.**
2. **The specimen requisition report from OpTime. (Note that any testing not ordered by the clinician during the case must be placed in the IntraOP Phase of Care prior to the procedure).**
3. **Two new paper requisitions that are attached. These paper requisitions are available electronically on ANCHOR.**
4. **Bone Marrow Requisition**
5. **Surgical Specimen Requisition**

Irreplaceable specimens received without a complete set of clinical orders will be triaged at the discretion of an attending pathologist. Any communication about the clinical indication for the test, or the patient’s clinical history must be documented on the paper requisitions or within OpTime.

**Unacceptable test order formats include; but are not limited to:**

* SU-7 O.R. Documentation Surgical Procedures (aka the pink sheet)
* LA-101 Cytology Request Form
* LA-82 Bone Marrow Exam
* NU-1 Consultation or Referral Request
* Any other types of consult/referral forms
* Any previous surgical specimen requisitions
* Hand-written notes on specimen containers
* E-mail sent to Pathologists or other laboratory staff

Any laboratory controlled forms listed above will be phased out over the next few weeks.

In addition to the current lab transport process, the laboratory staff will also be responsible for transporting all surgical specimens collected in the Operating Rooms on Main Campus.