PROCEDURE TITLE:
Standardized handling of possible or clinically unsuspected lymphoma cases at time of frozen section

UNIFIED DEPARTMENTAL POLICY NUMBER:

PURPOSE:
To optimize timely, efficient and accurate diagnosis for suspected lymphomas that enter the UM Pathology Dept via request for intra-operative consultation

DEFINITIONS:
HP = prefix for cases accessioned to hematopathology lymph node/bone marrow service
IF = prefix for cases accessioned to surgical pathology services in University Hospital and the Cardiovascular Center

STANDARDS:
Joint Commission 2007 National Patient Safety Goal 2E: Implement a standardized approach to “hand-off” communications, including an opportunity to ask and respond to questions

PROCEDURE:
1. Upon performing a frozen section on a tumor for which surgical pathology (SP) faculty suspect a hematologic lesion, the faculty member scheduled for the “Heme IH” rotation will be identified using the web based service calendar and paged by the AP attending staff. This communication should occur immediately after the intra-operative consultation and is intended as a professional dialogue to agree on a plan for case disposition.
   a) Consultation between SP and hematopathology (HP) faculty should include (but is not necessarily limited to) a brief review of the clinical scenario (situation) and differential diagnosis (background and assessment), and a plan for diagnostic evaluation including ancillary studies per lymph node protocol as appropriate (recommendation). Immediate next steps may include a plan for communication with the resident, fellow or service coordinator identified by hematopathology faculty as the person primarily responsible for managing the case.
2. Following consultation, the case will be re-assigned by laboratory personnel to the hematopathology (Heme IH) service (i.e. the prefix changed from IF to HP) for further evaluation and sign out.
3. The HP attending and/or resident/fellow will follow up with the SP attending that referred the specimen and inform him/her of their findings and diagnosis before the case is verified (calibrate). The HP service shall provide an opportunity for the SP attending to review the permanent sections and special stains if requested.
4. Cases with disputed diagnoses will be presented at both SP and HP consensus conferences for additional discussion.

REFERENCES:
N/A

EXHIBITS:
N/A

DOCUMENT REVISION LOG:
Initial Version Date: By
DEFINITIONS: