**Purpose:** For HER2 and ER/PgR testing, cold ischemia time should **be less than or equal to one hour** & per new HER-2/neu guidelines (10/13). This procedure does not pertain to specimens related to benign processes or surgical reconstruction.

**Materials:** Ink, Trimming Blades 260mm, Formalin (Neutral Buffered), Swabs, Gauze

**Procedure:**

1. All breast specimens are to be weighed and measured (3 dimensions).
2. Measure skin and nipple areola complex.
3. Note orientation if different than container.
4. Mastectomy inking code: Superior-blue, inferior-green and posterior-black. Lumpectomy inking code: Superior-blue, inferior-green, posterior-black, medial-red, lateral-orange and anterior-yellow.
5. Serial section all mastectomy specimens (5mm intervals) with skin facing down from lateral to medial or vice versa. Serial section all lumpectomy specimens (5mm intervals) along the long axis, keeping it intact.
6. Record any significant findings (lesion, location, size, etc.)
7. Record fixative and time placed into formalin after being sectioned.
8. Immerse specimen in neutral buffered formalin in a ratio of 20:1.
9. Record all information on specimen container or requisition with accession number, patient name and part.

\*For final pathology report: Time tissue is removed from patient, time tissue is placed on neutral buffered formalin and duration of fixation must be recorded.

* For any cases coming out at either University Hospital or Cardiovascular center, the Room 1 resident and/or fellow are responsible for specimen triage. For afterhours (after 5pm) and weekends, the on call resident will be paged.
* For any cases at EAA or BCBS (both weekdays and weekends at any time) the on call pathologist assistant is responsible for specimen triage.

**References:**

1.Yildiz-Aktas IZ, Dabbs DJ, Bhargava R. The Effect of Cold Ischemic Time on the Immunohistochemical Evaluation of Estrogen Receptor, Progesterone Receptor, and HER2 Expression in Invasive Breast Carcinoma. Mod Pathol. 2012;25(8):1098-1105.

2. Wolff AC, Hammond EM, Hicks DG et. al. Recommendations for Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor 2 Testing in Breast Cancer: American Society of Clinical Oncology/College of American Pathologists Clinical Practice Guideline Update. Arch Pathol Lab Med. 2014;138:241-256.