**Procedure**

* Pat the specimen dry with paper towels to remove all blood and other bodily fluids.  The ink won’t run nearly as much if the specimen is patted dry.
* Use a cotton swab to apply ink if precision is needed.  Don’t have ink dripping from the swab before applying to the specimen.  If a large area is requiring ink, put some ink on gauze and dab it on the specimen.
* Evenly cover the desired surface.
* Do not reuse the cotton swabs! After a swab is used on a specimen, throw it in the retained trash. Use new swabs between all specimens to prevent cross contamination.
* Use acetone as a mordant for the ink.
* Pat the specimen dry and reapply ink to areas that it may not have stayed on.  Don’t cut the specimen until it is patted dry or your ink will run onto the cut surface.

**Note: \* Red ink, when you are on dermatology, sends a message to the histotech to embed that surface down. Do not use red for general inking on derm specimens unless you need to signify that something needs to be embedded down. For other services besides derm, try to avoid red ink unless you need something embedded en face, you are inking a sarcoma or using all 6 colors (most frequently breast).**