**Purpose**

To provide standardized workflow for handling specimens which may be involved in a criminal investigation related to sexual abuse.

**Procedure**

1. Notification of a possible criminal investigation/sexual abuse case comes to Anatomic Pathology from the Michigan Medicine unit treating the patient. Usually the specimens are retrieved from the Emergency Department, Mott Emergency Department, Mott OR, or the Gynecologic service at Michigan Medicine.
2. Tissue specimens are delivered directly to the closest pathology laboratory **without fixative**. (The OR runner can be utilized for delivery if that is the usual method of transportation). Note: Please keep tissue refrigerated as this will halt DNA degredation.

OR

1. Unit retrieving the specimen should call the Mott frozen section lab at 2-8546. The Pathology Assistant follows protocol for DNA sample retrieval (see below) and freezes the specimen in a -80 degree freezer. Buccal swab from the patient may also be retrieved by provider. This specimen can also be frozen in a -80 degree freezer.
2. Law enforcement agency involved (Sheriff’s office/detective unit or police department) is responsible for picking up frozen specimens from Pathology and directly delivering them to a Michigan state crime laboratory for DNA processing.
3. Chain of custody must be maintained at all times, documenting each person who touches the specimen. (see attachment)

**Tissue Retrieval for DNA Analysis**

* Make sure tissue is fresh.
* Make sure grossing bench is cleaned thoroughly and free from other tissue or bodily fluid.
* If possible, try to leave tissue in original container while harvesting tissue as the containers are sterile. If necessary, dump out tissue onto the inner aspect of the specimen lid or paper towels.
* Using 2 sterile #22 scalpel blades, cut a 5mm piece of fetal skin with attached skeletal muscle. Do not compromise any pathological abnormalities. If no fetal tissue is present, take a 5mm piece of chorionic villi.
* Use the scalpel blades to pick up tissue (in place of forceps) and place in a sterile, conical snap tube or sterile, orange top urine container.
* Tissue needs to be fresh. Do not use fixative, media or saline.
* Place an additional surgical pathology sticker with patient information on container and label fetal or placental tissue.
* Freeze container in liquid nitrogen until tissue is completely frozen.
* Store in -80 freezer until tissue is retrieved by law enforcement.
* Sign chain of custody form, if applicable



**CHAIN OF CUSTODY**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Date:  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Patient Name: |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Registration #: |  |  |
| Specimen: |  |  |
|  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Specimen leaving OR:  |  |  |
|  | OR Representative | Date Time |

Specimen received

by Pathology: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Pathology Rep. Date Time

Specimen received

By law enforcement

agency: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Representative Date Time