Biopsies for Frozen Sections

1. Biopsies (usually 18 gauge needle core biopsies) are placed on a normal saline-dampened Telfa pad, carefully wrapped, and immediately transferred to a specimen container. The container should include 5-10 ml of saline in order to maintain humidity in the container and prevent desiccation of the specimen(s).

2. Care must be taken to avoid crushing the biopsy during transfers.

3. Specimen containers must be labeled and the label must include the MTS Request ID and UNOS numbers. The container lid should be carefully tightened to prevent loss of the saline.

4. The sealed primary container should be placed in a sealed zip-lock bag for secondary containment.

5. Specimens are immediately transported to WU according to the transport instructions. During warm weather specimens can be transported to the destination in a cooler.

6. Every specimen must be accompanied by a printed copy of the completed WUPAX requisition.

Biopsies for Rapid Processing

Biopsies for rapid processing are limited to 18 gauge needle core biopsies. Because specimens must be fixed before beginning the rapid processing cycle, all specimens must be collected into formalin and the time the biopsy was placed in fixative must be recorded on the label or requisition.

1. Core needle biopsies should be immediately transferred to neutral buffered formalin. Commercial pre-filled containers (Simport #M960-90FMA) are approved for this purpose.

2. Biopsies should be completely immersed in the fixative to prevent drying and to allow efficient fixation.

3. Care must be taken to avoid crushing the biopsy during transfers.

4. Specimen containers must be labeled and the label must include the MTS Request ID and UNOS numbers.

5. The container lid should be carefully tightened to prevent loss of fixative and the primary container should be placed in a sealed zip-lock bag for secondary containment.

6. Specimens are immediately transported to WU according to the transport instructions.

7. Every specimen must be accompanied by a printed copy of the completed WUPAX requisition.