



HOBART
PATHOLOGY

Sonic Healthcare Ltd (A.P.A.)

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LABORATORY HANDBOOK

HOBART PATHOLOGY LABORATORY HANDBOOK

This Handbook has been prepared by Hobart Pathology and every care has been taken in its compilation. Hobart Pathology shall not be liable for any error or omission contained herein or arising from usage of material contained in this Handbook.

April 2009

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INTRODUCTION

This Handbook has been prepared by Hobart Pathology to assist medical practitioners, private hospitals and other referring clients in an attempt to provide an up-to-date, concise guide to the range of services provided by our Laboratory. We hope this Handbook is a useful source of information regarding the appropriate collection of specimens. Correct collection and relevant clinical notes are as important as laboratory performance in obtaining valid and useful results. Correct patient identification and clear test requirements assist us in giving a quality service. In order to make the Handbook useful it has been divided into two sections:

Section 1. General background information about the laboratory and the service we provide.

Section 2. This section lists information on special specimen collections – drug monitoring, cytology, histology, fine needle aspiration biopsies, marrow trephines and aspirates, oral anticoagulant control, autologous blood transfusion and semen analysis.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Pathologists and Senior Staff

Medical Director: Dr Daniel Owens

Practice Manager: Mr Graham Collins

Histology	Biochemistry
Dr Shaun Donovan	Dr Daniel Owens
Dr Eileen Long	Mr Neil Byron
Dr John McArdle	
Dr Kathryn McArdle	Cytology
Dr Mark Prentice	Dr Shaun Donovan
Dr Catherine Robinson	Dr Mark Prentice
Dr Paul Tucker	Ms Sandra Pullen
Dr Penny Yarrow	
	Pre-Analytical Manager
Haematology	Ms Sandy Burton
Dr Daniel Owens	
Mr Neil Byron	Specimen Collection
	Mrs Justine Radonic
Microbiology	Mrs Sally Williams
Dr Alistair McGregor	
Mrs Kim Roberts	Histology
	Mrs Teresa Clark
Client Services	
Mrs Lynda Lonergan	Accounts
	Ms Kerry Ralston

GENERAL INFORMATION

Laboratory Details

Address 2-4 Kirksway Place, Hobart , Tasmania.

Contact Telephone Numbers

Results 6237 1200

Switchboard 6223 1955

Fax 6224 1509

Accounts 1300 735 476

Biochemistry 6237 1201

Blood Transfusion 6237 1229

Client Services 6237 1247

Couriers 6237 1219

Cytology 6237 1233

Haematology 6237 1202

Home Calls 6223 5572

Histology 6237 1231

Pathologists 6237 1203

Practice Manager 6237 1244

Microbiology 6237 1206

Specimen Collection 6223 5572

Specimen Reception 6237 1276

Website www.hobartpath.com.au

Email hobartpath@dspl.com.au

GENERAL INFORMATION

After Hours

Please telephone our Answering Service on 6234 2525 and you will be given the name of the staff member taking calls for Hobart Pathology at that time. The person who takes your call will contact a medical scientist who will attend to your tests as soon as possible.

Specimen Collection Centres

Operating Hours - As opening hours may change, please see the reverse of a current request form for details of these times. All collection centres are licensed under the Health Insurance Act as Approved Collection Centres. These centres are located as follows:

<u>Collection Centre</u>	<u>Fax</u>	<u>Opening Hours</u>
20 Gregory Street, Sandy Bay	6223 5292	Mon-Fri 7:00am - 5:30pm Sat 8:00 - 1:00pm
Shop 2, 81 Macquarie Street, Hobart	6224 1866	Mon-Fri 8:00am - 5:00pm
29B Main Road, Claremont	6229 8800	Mon-Fri 8:00am – 1:00pm
359 Main Road, Glenorchy	6273 1375	Mon-Fri 8:00am - 5:00pm
7 John Street, Kingston	6229 5252	Mon-Fri 8:00am - 5:00pm
1A Franklin Street, Lindisfarne	6243 1120	Mon-Fri 8:30am - 5:00pm Closed 1:00pm - 2:00pm
113-115 Main Road, Moonah	6228 4337	Mon-Fri 8:30am - 5:00pm
18 Ross Avenue, Rosny	6244 6901	Mon-Fri 8:00am - 5:30pm Sat 8:00 - 12:30pm
4/4 Station Lane, Sorell	6265 3653	Mon-Fri 8:00am - 4:00pm Closed 1:00pm - 1:30pm

GENERAL INFORMATION

Courier Service

Routine Courier Services

An extensive courier service is provided. Each courier delivers reports and pathology supplies and collects specimens. A courier will call on practices regularly, or if preferred, only when requested. Routine or urgent pick-ups can be arranged by calling 6237 1219.

Urgent Courier Services

The urgent collection of specimens is available by phoning the Courier Department on 6237 1219.

Specimen Boxes

If requested, a secure specimen box can be installed at surgeries for out of hours specimens.

Supplies

All materials necessary for the collection of pathology specimens can be supplied at no charge, subject to HIC guidelines. A form labelled "Resupply Order Form", which lists the supplies available, can be obtained from your Hobart Pathology courier. To order supplies, please fill in this form and send in to the laboratory with your courier.

GENERAL INFORMATION

There is also an “Online Order Supply Form” on the Hobart Pathology website www.hobartpath.com.au which can be found under Online Services.

Requests

Request Forms

Request forms personalised with the doctor’s name and address are available upon request.

Our standard blue request forms and paper for computer generated requests; pre-printed with our collection centre locations on the reverse, are also available.

To order request form replacements, please fill in the re-supply order form available from the Courier Department.

Requesting Tests

When ordering tests, please make requests as specific as possible. Certain approved abbreviations may be used to order tests or groups of tests. Acceptable abbreviations are published in the Medicare Benefits Schedule book. It is a Health Insurance Commission requirement that all requesting practitioners sign every request.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Add on Test Requests

Requests for additional pathology tests may also be phoned to the appropriate laboratory department. However, to ensure that patients may receive Medicare Benefits, the laboratory is required to receive signed confirmation of the request for testing within fourteen days of the verbal request.

If a signed request has not been received, the laboratory will send a computer generated request form, including the patient details, for signing and confirmation of the tests requested.

Requests for a Series of Tests

In a limited number of clinical situations, Health Insurance Commission regulations allow the requesting doctor to use a single, signed request for a series of the same test. **The request form must be endorsed "Rule 3 Exemption" by the requesting doctor.**

For INRs, tests can be requested any number of times within a six month period. For other tests listed, the request is valid for a period of 6 months or 6 tests, whichever occurs first.

Please see the table on page 12 for specific tests and requirements.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Test	Patient Treatment or Therapy	
INR	Anticoagulant therapy (INR tests require a single request for an UNLIMITED number of tests in a six-month period).	
Lithium	Lithium therapy	
FBE Reticulocyte Count ESR (tests only valid to be performed as R3 when requested with FBE)	Arava Azathioprine Clozapine Clozaril Cortisone Cyclophosphamide Cyclosporin Gold Hydroxyurea Immunosuppressant Imuran Interferon	Glivec Leflunomide Mesalamine Methoblastin Methotrexate MTX Pegasys Penicillimine Prednisolone Salazopyrin Steroid therapy Sulfasalazine Ticlopidine Hydrochloride
Electrolytes Urea Creatinine	Cis-platinum therapy Cyclosporin Chronic renal failure patients on dialysis	
LFT Electrolytes Calcium, Phosphate Magnesium CK CRP Lipase Amylase	Leflunomide Methotrexate	
Calcium, Albumin	Calciferol Calcitrol Cholecalciferol	Rocaltrol Vitamin D
Calcium, Phosphate, Magnesium, U&E	Bisphosphonate infusions	

GENERAL INFORMATION

Patient Details

A correctly labelled specimen is essential. Persons collecting specimens must positively identify the patient and ensure that there are three unique identifiers recorded on the specimen. Record patient surname, given name, date of birth and, if appropriate, a unit record number. A correctly labelled specimen should arrive in the laboratory with a completed pathology request form that includes the date and time of collection.

If there are discrepancies, the laboratory may not be able to proceed with the investigations. Please ensure all relevant clinical information is provided.

Specimen Collection and Results

Specimen Collection

We have Approved Collection Centres staffed by trained phlebotomists as listed on page 8.

We also provide a domiciliary service for those patients who are disabled or severely ill and who are unable to attend one of our collection centres. Distance from Hobart is an important factor and we are unable to offer this service beyond an area roughly bounded by Bridgewater, Sorell and Kingston. Please contact a Pathologist if there are exceptional circumstances outside of this area. Domiciliary visits may be arranged by telephoning Specimen Collection between 8:00am and 5:30pm weekdays on 6223 5572.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Result Reporting

Fax - Results can routinely be sent directly to a surgery's fax machine by the laboratory's computer. To arrange for this service, please contact the Results Department on 6237 1200.

We would like to encourage faxing of urgent results where possible in order to minimise the risk of errors in transcription. Faxed results will normally be followed by a printed report.

Telephone - Urgent results will be telephoned where requested and followed by a printed report. We supply 'Telephone Report Pads' for your convenience.

Results by Electronic Download

Pathology results may also be downloaded and imported into all major practice management software systems via a program called Fetch. Results may also be viewed via the internet using Webster, our secure result viewing application.

For further information on Fetch and Webster, please phone Client Services on 6237 1247 or email us at clientservices@dspl.com.au

Electronic Ordering

Hobart Pathology is pleased to advise that our online ordering facility has been incorporated into the latest versions of Medical Director – Version 2.9, Medical Director 3 and Best Practice. Please contact us to organise a time to discuss the option of implementing electronic ordering of pathology in your practice.

Electronic Ordering enhances Medical Director's pathology request module by incorporating eight time saving features:

- Electronic transmission of pathology requests.
- Our Hobart Pathology specific test list and powerful search engine.
- Outstanding Orders and Pending Reports summaries.
- New customisable groups of tests can be created to make ordering simpler and faster.
- Clinical notes you place on requests are returned to you with your results.
- New request forms have integrated patient labels that can be used on collected specimens.
- New request forms have integrated Medicare assignment form for those patients you wish Bulk Billed.
- Unlimited favourites and patient specific favourites are a new feature.

The request information is transmitted to Hobart Pathology when Fetch is in the process of downloading your results or at intervals to suit your practice. This requires no additional intervention and guarantees that patient demographics and tests requested are captured by our computer exactly as they are recorded in Medical Director.

In creased accuracy of tests requested and patient demographics results in a higher rate of patient matching when results are downloaded, saving you time.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Features of Electronic Ordering include:

- Test List and Search Engine

Our Hobart Pathology specific test list incorporates common synonyms for tests, HIC test restrictions, test combinations and specific collection requirements.

You save time by simply typing a few keystrokes for the search engine to find the test and its additional information.

- Outstanding Orders and Pending Reports Summaries

Lists of patients who have not presented for pathology collection; and outstanding reports for tests still under investigation are obtainable as part of our new service if required.

This has been designed to assist you to minimise your medico-legal risk by keeping track of your patients' pathology episodes.

For more information or to have Electronic Ordering enabled in Medical Director, please do not hesitate to contact the Client Services Manager, on (03) 62371 247 or email your enquiry to clientservices@dspl.com.au

GENERAL INFORMATION

Significant Pathology reports

We are able to provide a weekly report of results outside reference ranges for referrers.

The results included are generally numerical Haematology and Biochemistry test results which would flag as abnormal on the original report. The report does not include Histopathology, Cytology or Microbiology results. Tests for which reference ranges are not applicable or interpretation is complex are not included.

In order to maintain privacy, test results that have specifically been requested to be treated as Private and Confidential are not included in the weekly report.

The report is intended as a prompt only and could serve as a reminder for abnormals follow-up.

It should not replace thorough reading of individual reports.

If you wish to trial or receive our 'Significant Pathology Report' on a weekly basis, please contact the Client Services Manager on 6237 1247 or email your enquiry to clientservices@dspl.com.au

Extra Copies

If copies of reports are required, please indicate the **name and address** of the recipient in the "copy to" space on the request form.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Laboratory Visits

You are encouraged to visit our laboratory and meet our staff who are the basis of our expertise, efficiency and service. Please telephone the Client Services Manager on 6237 1247 to arrange a visit.

Our staff take great pride in our company core values:

Commit to Service Excellence

To willingly serve all those with whom we deal; with unsurpassed excellence.

Treat each other with Respect and Honesty

To grow a workplace where trust, team spirit, and equity are an integral part of everything we do.

Demonstrate Responsibility and Accountability

To set an example, to take ownership of each situation to the best of our ability, and to seek help when needed.

Be Enthusiastic about Continuous Improvement

To never be complacent, to recognise limitations and opportunities for ourselves and processes and to learn through these.

Maintain Confidentiality

To keep all information pertaining to patients, as well as professional and commercial issues, in strict confidence.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Licences and Accreditation

The Pathology Laboratory and Collection Centres have been approved by the Health Insurance Commission. The Pathology Laboratory was first accredited as a Category 1 Laboratory by the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia and the National Association of Testing Authorities in 1987. It was successfully re-assessed in 1991, 1995, 1999, 2002, 2005 and 2008. Laboratories previously accredited as Category 1 are now classified as Category GX.

Quality Control

The Laboratory uses up-to-date methods and the latest equipment with direct interfacing to the main computer thus minimising data transmission errors. Internal quality control and participation in external quality assurance programs ensures that all testing procedures are continually monitored. Results of the various quality control programs are available for review on request.

SPECIAL SPECIMEN PROCEDURES

Procedures for Collection of Pathology Samples

Evacuated Tube Method for Blood Collection

When using the evacuated tube system and when multiple tubes are to be drawn, the following “order of draw” is recommended to avoid contamination.

- (a) Sterile samples (eg blood culture).
- (b) Citrate tubes.
- (c) Serum separator tubes (gel).
- (d) Heparin tubes.
- (e) EDTA tubes.
- (f) Glucose tubes.

If using a conventional needle and syringe for blood taking, please ensure that the needle and the rubber cap of the tube are removed prior to adding the blood. DO NOT add the blood to the tube by piercing the cap with the needle. Fill up to but DO NOT fill above the line on the tube. The evacuated blood collection system is recommended for taking of samples except in patients with difficult veins. Training is provided for medical practitioners and their staff for the use of the system. Please telephone the Client Services Manager to arrange training if required. All tubes, needles, needle holders etc are supplied upon request. Patient Information Sheets are available on our website at www.hobartpath.com.au

SPECIAL SPECIMEN PROCEDURES

Microbiology

Urine Collection for Microbiology

Female - Instruct the patient to separate the folds of skin of the labia and wipe from front to back twice with sterile water wipes. The patient is then instructed to straddle the toilet opposite to normal position, commence urinating and collect the middle stream of the urine into the container.

Male - The patient is instructed to cleanse the end of the penis with sterile water wipes (retracting the foreskin in uncircumcised males) and collect the middle stream of the urine into the container.

Swab Collection for Microbiology

The following is a list of the appropriate swabs for specific tests:

1. For Microbiological culture and sensitivity, a swab in routine transport medium (Blue top) will suffice in most cases.
2. Viral PCR (Green) – A dry white top swab.
3. Chlamydia – First catch urine or dry white top swab.
4. Pertussis (White) – Throat swab using a dry PCR swab labelled PCR PERTUSSIS.
5. Herpes (Red) – Swab vesicle fluid using a dry PCR swab labelled PCR HERPES.
6. Chlamydia/Gonorrhoeae (Yellow) – Investigations for conjunctival Chlamydia and genital Chlamydia or Gonorrhoeae use a dry PCR swab labelled PCR CHLAMYDIA/ GONORRHOEAE.

SPECIAL SPECIMEN PROCEDURES

Gregory St Only Tests

Most of our tests can be performed at any of our Approved Collection Centres. However, the following must be performed at 20 Gregory St, Sandy Bay.

ACTH
Activated protein C resistance
ADH (antidiuretic hormone)
Alpha Glycoprotein subunit
Ammonia
Anti-platelet antibodies
Anti-thrombin III
Arterial blood gases
Bilirubin – babies less than 3 weeks only
Bone marrow biopsies and aspirates -Appointment needed
Calcitonin
Chlamydia swab
Cold agglutinins
Conjunctival scrape – Appointment needed
C-Peptide
Cryoglobulin
Dexamethasone suppression test
Drug screen For legal requirements
Erythrocyte transketolase

Factor IX assay and Factor VIII related studies

Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA / FNAB) - Appointment needed

Fragile X- Monday to Thursday before 3pm only

Gabapentin

Gastrin

Glucagon

Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA / FNAB) - Appointment needed

Fragile X- Mon to Wed only

Glucose tolerance tests – 5 hr only (ie extended and children)

Growth hormone – basal and exercise

Ham's test (PNH flow cytometry)

HLA screen, DR2, DR3, DR4 and tissue typing

Homocystine

Inhibin

Insulin antibodies

Insulin growth factor

Interleukin

Intrinsic factor

Ionised calcium

Lactose tolerance test – Appointment needed

Lupus inhibitor

Mantoux tests – Monday, Tuesday and Friday Only

Methotrexate

Neutrophil function test – Appointment needed

Osmotic fragility

Pancreatic polypeptide

Parathyroid Hormone

Phase contrast microscopy

Platelet aggregation studies

Platelet antibodies

Protein C and S

Pth related peptide – Appointment needed

Quantiferon TB

Renin - aldosterone

Semen analysis - fertility only (within 1 hour)

Somatomedin C

Sucrose lysis time – Appointment needed

Synacthen stimulation test

Thiamine

TRAbs (TSH receptor antibody)

Transketolase

Urethral swabs (males)

Venous blood gases

Vitamin A

Vitamin B1, B2 and B6

Vitamin C

Vitamin E

Xanthine

SPECIAL SPECIMEN PROCEDURES

Drug Monitoring

The following drugs can be assayed at Hobart Pathology.

Other drugs may be assayed at external laboratories, please enquire.

Carbamazepine [Tegretol]	Note 1
Cyclosporin A	Note 1
Digoxin [Lanoxin]	Note 2
Gentamicin	Note 3
Lithium	Note 4
Paracetamol	Note 5
Phenobarbitone	Note 1
Primidone [Mysoline]	Note 1
Quinidine [Kinidin]	Note 1
Salicylate [Aspirin]	Note 1
Theophylline	Note 1
Tricyclic Antidepressants	Note 6
Valproate [Epilim]	Note 1
Vancomycin	Note 3

Key to Numbers in Drug Table

- Note 1** The recommended sampling time is pre-dose.
- Note 2** There is a rise in serum levels immediately after the dose, therefore samples should be taken six hours or more post dose.
- Note 3** Samples should be taken pre-dose. There is no need or advantage in post-dose levels.
- Note 4** Samples should be taken twelve or more hours post dose.
- Note 5** In possible overdoses, samples should be taken at known times four or more hours post dose to assess the risk of toxicity.
- Note 6** This assay measures amitriptyline, nortriptyline, imipramine and desipramine, together with their demethylated metabolites. It cannot reliably measure the levels of other tricyclic antidepressants.

SPECIAL SPECIMEN PROCEDURES

Sampling Information

1. Always write the sampling time on the request slip.
2. The timing of blood sampling in relation to dosage may be critical for correct interpretation of the serum concentration results. Collection time should be based on the pharmacokinetic properties of the drug, its dosage form (ie intravenous solution, intramuscular injection, oral tablet, etc.), the dosing protocol and the clinical reason for assaying the sample. Other factors affecting selection of sampling time include concurrently administered drugs, the patient's clinical status, age, weight and sex. Specific guidelines for each drug should be followed.
3. The sampling times given in the above table are designed to provide the most meaningful results for clinical interpretation. In the instance of a patient presenting for a blood test at a time different from that recommended, it should be suggested that the patient return at a mutually convenient time.

If this is not convenient for the patient, collect the specimen and make a notation to that effect on the request form.

SPECIAL SPECIMEN PROCEDURES

Cytology

Cervical Smears (Pap Smears)

Patients should be advised not to present for a Pap smear during the time of active menstrual bleeding. When taking the smear the Cervex Sampler TM gives the most satisfactory sample. This device provides a significant increase in endocervical cell pick-up rate. By applying the head of the device to the cervix and inserting it into the endocervical canal with gentle pressure the hairs of the tip come in to contact with the desired sampling site. Gentle rotation will lift off a generous cell sample without undue trauma. The head is applied to a pre-labelled glass slide and the smear is made in the routine manner and immediately placed in the alcohol container for fixation.

Please remember to label slide with surname, given name and date of birth using pencil - DO NOT use biro or marker pen.

Tear-off letters addressed to patients

Tear-off letters which inform the patient of their Pap smear result are attached to the bottom of the smear report. These letters are for doctors to send to their patients if they wish and include the patient's address printed to facilitate insertion into a window envelope.

SPECIAL SPECIMEN PROCEDURES

Cervical Smears (ThinPrep)

This test is offered in addition to the traditional pap smear, it is **not refundable** by Medicare and the patient will be billed for this service. (Patients may be Bulk Billed for the routine pap smear when a ThinPrep is requested). Specimens should be collected as follows:

Obtain a sample in the usual way using Cervex sampler.

Make the normal pap smear in the usual fashion, rapidly immersing the slide in the alcohol tube.

Then immerse the sampling device into the special ThinPrep vial. Rotate the device for at least three revolutions [against the bottom of the vial], then remove the sampling device for disposal and place the screw-top cap firmly on the vial.

Label the ThinPrep vial with the patient's surname, given name and date of birth.

Tick the 'ThinPrep' box on the green Cytology Request Form or alternatively write ThinPrep and forward the request along with both the standard alcohol slide containing tube and the labelled ThinPrep vial to the laboratory.

SPECIAL SPECIMEN PROCEDURES

Sputum

Three early morning, “deep cough” samples are recommended on three consecutive days (the series is covered by one Medicare item number and hence requires only one request form marked x 3).

The correct collection of the sputum is very important for the results to be meaningful. Preferably sputum should be collected prior to breakfast as follows:

Patient is instructed to rinse mouth with water and clear mouth of post nasal discharge and saliva.

Patient coughs deeply and vigorously collecting the sputum into the container.

Label the specimen container with the patient’s Surname, Given name and date of birth.

If the patient has difficulty in obtaining a satisfactory specimen, physiotherapy may be required.

Deliver specimen to your nearest collection centre as soon as possible.

SPECIAL SPECIMEN PROCEDURES

Urine Series for Cytology

Three samples are to be collected preferably on three consecutive days (the series is covered by one Medicare item number and hence requires only one request form marked x 3). The second urine of the morning is the preferred specimen. It should be collected each morning and a portion of this sample placed in the “specimen container” provided. The container should be at least half filled.

Each container needs to be labelled clearly with Surname, Given name and date of birth, collection date and the number in the series (ie 1, 2 or 3). The specimen should be delivered to the nearest Collection Centre as soon as practicable on the day it is collected (best results are obtained on fresh specimens). If there is any delay in delivery, the specimen should be refrigerated.

Other Body Fluids and Washings

The sample should be sent to the Laboratory immediately after collection.

SPECIAL SPECIMEN PROCEDURES

Fine Needle Aspiration for Cytology

Superficial Lesions performed by a Pathologist

This procedure is performed at 20 Gregory St, Sandy Bay, on Tuesdays only.

Superficial readily palpable lesions are suitable for aspiration by Pathologists. Lymph node, salivary gland lumps and the like are suitable. Most thyroid and breast masses do not fall into this readily palpable category and usually require aspiration under radiological guidance. Patients may be referred to the practice where a Pathologist will perform this procedure. Consultation between the referring Practitioner and the Pathologist is encouraged for optimal results. Appointments are necessary and can be arranged by telephoning the Cytology Department on 6237 1233.

Deep Lesions performed by a Radiologist

Patients with deep lesions which may require imaging guidance for aspiration cytology should be referred to a Radiologist who will organise pathology.

SPECIAL SPECIMEN PROCEDURES

Histopathology

Surgical Specimens

Routine Surgical Specimens

These are placed in an adequate volume (at least 10 times the volume of the tissue) of 10% buffered formalin. Pre-filled containers are available from the laboratory. Specimens are processed daily. For urgent biopsies, communication between the referring practitioner and the pathologist is recommended.

Special Procedures on Surgical Specimens

Some specimens (such as lymph nodes, testicular biopsies, tissue for direct immunofluorescence and tissue for microbiological culture) may need to be sent immediately to the laboratory in a fresh state. Please contact the Histopathology Department on 6237 1231 for further information.

Frozen Sections

A frozen section service is offered and bookings should be made with the Histology Department on 6237 1231 for elective procedures. Consultation with a pathologist is essential for urgent frozen sections.

SPECIAL SPECIMEN PROCEDURES

Bone Marrow Trepines and Aspirates

Procedure

1. Bone marrow trephines and aspirates are usually requested as part of a haematological investigation for blood and lymphoproliferative disorders.
2. Appointments can be made through the Specimen Collection Department on 6223 5572.
3. Prior discussion with the pathologist is advised in order to assess the need for additional investigations such as cytogenetic analysis, cell marker studies etc.
4. Bone marrow aspirates and trephines may be performed as a day procedure in a private hospital under sedation.
5. Bone marrow aspirates (without trephines) may be performed under local anaesthetic at our Collection Centre at 20 Gregory St, Sandy Bay.

If there is a requirement for an urgent bone marrow examination or to organise collection during anaesthetic for another surgical procedure, please contact a pathologist on 6237 1203.

SPECIAL SPECIMEN PROCEDURES

Autologous Blood Transfusion Programme

Procedure

1. An Autologous Blood Transfusion Programme is currently available through the Australian Red Cross Blood Service. Contact number: 6230 6230.
2. Referral is generally through the patient's specialist but may be through the patient's general practitioner.

SPECIAL SPECIMEN PROCEDURES

Semen Analysis

Fertility Investigation

Semen analysis is an accurate way of assessing male fertility. Accuracy can only be achieved by strict attention to sample collection and transport.

Procedure

The patient is instructed to abstain from masturbation or sexual intercourse for 3-4 days prior to collection.

Lubricants or condoms should NOT be used.

The specimen should be collected by masturbation and ejaculated into a warm yellow top plastic specimen container.

The specimen should be kept warm and delivered to our collection centre located at 20 Gregory St, Sandy Bay within 1 hour of collection.

The specimen container should be fully labelled with the patient's surname, given name and date of birth. The date and time of collection should be clearly marked on the container.

Information sheets for patients are available from our collection centre located at 20 Gregory St, Sandy Bay or on our website www.hobartpath.com.au.

SPECIAL SPECIMEN PROCEDURES

Post Vasectomy Examination

Procedure

1. The specimen should be collected by masturbation and ejaculated into a yellow top plastic specimen container. c
2. The specimen should be delivered to our collection Centre located at 20 Gregory St, Sandy Bay on the same day as collection.
3. It is not essential to keep the sample warm.
4. Spermatozoa may remain within the genital tract for a few months. If spermatozoa are present the examination should be repeated at intervals of several weeks.

Sperm Antibodies

Sperm Antibodies – please contact Microbiology.