**Purpose**

To establish policies relative to Surgical Pathology specimens this may be exempt from mandatory histological examination, in addition to verification upon case completion.

**Definitions**

**gross only** = tissue that is examined grossly with no sections submitted for microscopic examination

**Standards**

1. Tissue that is submitted as gross examination only should be documented in the pathology report as such. The categories of specimens that may be submitted as gross include, but are not limited to:

a. Scar tissue from recent (less than 1 year) burns and trauma unrelated to previous surgery for neoplastic disease.   
  
b. Skin from cosmetic procedures, excluding cosmetic removal of skin lesions such as nevi   
  
c. Blepharoplasty, rhytidoplasty and rhinoplasty specimens   
  
d. Tissue derived from removal of fatty apron (i.e. pannus)   
  
e. Foreskins from circumcisions and plastic procedures from patients less than 6 years of age and without a history of phimosis   
  
f. Toenails for traumatic avulsion or ingrown nail for which no special stains have been requested any attached skin or soft tissues should be submitted for histological examination   
  
g. Debridement for recent trauma   
  
h. Traumatic amputations of digits or limbs   
  
i. Accessory digits with the exception of enlarged/hypertrophic digits from pediatric cases.

j. Excess bone and gingival tissue removed during alveoplasty   
  
k. Teeth from routine multiple extractions   
  
l. Bone and soft tissue from deviated nasal septa   
  
m. Nasal turbinate’s   
  
n. Tympanic membrane remnants   
  
o. Excess bone and split thickness skin grafts not used in recipient sites   
  
p. Ribs resected in approach to retroperitoneal space and thoracotomy   
  
q. Femoral heads and articular surfaces of knee joints removed for degenerative joint disease. Gross description must include examination for features of avascular necrosis

r. Femoral heads and other bone fragments submitted from fracture sites and for diseases other than degenerative joint disease should include histological examination

s. Joint menisci   
  
t. Urinary calculi   
  
u. Hernias from pediatric patients: All inguinal hernias from patients under 18 years of age are gross only (unless gross abnormality is identified). All remaining hernias need to be examined microscopically.   
  
v. Hernias from adult patients: Inguinal hernia sacs from patients over 18 years of age need to be examined microscopically. All remaining hernias are exempt from microscopic evaluation (unless gross abnormality is identified).

v. Prosthetic implants with the exception of valves, patches and grafts from pediatric cases.

y. Grossly normal small bowel and stomach from bariatric procedures.   
  
z. Vaginal mucosa from repair operations   
  
aa. Varicose veins

bb.  All atherosclerotic plaque specimens

cc. Calcified cardiac valves from adult cases without vegetation’s or history of endocarditis. All tissue from pediatric heart valves need to be examined microscopically.

**Gross Only Verification**

1. Gross only specimens are stored on lower shelf at back counter in Room 1.
2. These are checked daily.
3. SoftPathDX Live
4. Result tab
5. Interpretation Result Entry
6. Scan specimen container
7. If case is verified and signed out the following should be seen:
8. “order can’t be edited because it is signed out”
9. If case is verified the case can be put on the “done grossing cart” on shelf for day case was accessioned. Look at patient label for date.
10. If case is an explant…see explant procedure.
11. If case is not verified, place back on gross only shelf and check another day.