



Placentas: Updated Examination Process

Date Issued: February 28, 2018

Effective: March 1, 2018

Following discussion with clinical colleagues, the pathology service will be adopting a new process for examination of placentas. Effective March 1, 2018, examination of placentas submitted for pathology will have a gross examination, with storage of representative paraffin tissue blocks. The pathology report will include the weight, dimensions, and gross descriptive findings of the placenta.

A statement on the report will indicate that consultation to a pathologist for microscopic examination is available upon physician request, if required for patient care or medicolegal considerations. The tissue blocks are secured in storage by the laboratory for over 20 years, thus microscopic examination can be performed long after the delivery if necessary.

The process to consult a pathologist if microscopic examination is required, will be to FAX a consultation request to your referral pathology department, providing the pertinent clinical information and the specific question that needs to be addressed. A supplemental report will then be issued providing the microscopic findings.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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