



Do Not Submit Stents, Pacemakers, Catheters, Clips, Foreign Bodies or Other Hardware for Pathology Examination

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Hardware, foreign bodies and medical devices that are devoid of attached tissue or are not required for documentation for medical legal purposes are exempt from routine submission to pathology by provincial legislation in Manitoba ([The Hospitals Act](#)), and by WRHA policy #110.220.070.

In the vast majority of cases, pathology examination of these devices is an inefficient use of resources, generating unnecessary cost for the laboratory and providing no clinically relevant information.

***If there are clinical indications for a pathology examination:**

When there is reason to suspect the presence of disease on clinical grounds, specimens should be sent to pathology with a specific written request for a pathology examination and pertinent clinical information clearly documented on the requisition.

Stents, pacemakers, catheters, clips, mesh, foreign bodies and other hardware for which there is no clinical reason to request a pathology examination should be disposed of in the operating/procedure room. Hardware can include plates, nails, and screws. These specimens should not be submitted to the pathology department.

References/Resources:

[Utility of pathologic evaluation following removal of explanted orthopaedic internal fixation hardware](#)

[Cost Effectiveness and Utility of Routine Pathologic Evaluation of Plastic Surgery Specimens](#)

More information:

[The Hospitals Act](#)

WRHA regional policy #110.220.070: Pathology Specimens (Management of) – Acute Care Setting.

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