

# UW MEDICINE

## PATHOLOGY

Department of Pathology, Anatomic Pathology Division

Autopsy and After Death Services

1959 NE Pacific Street, Seattle, WA 98195

Box 356100

TELE: 206-598-4205, FAX 206-598-6699

<http://www.pathology.washington.edu/patient-care/neuropath-clinical-services>

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## BRAIN TISSUE – Whole Fixed Brain Tissue

revised: 09/19

### Instructions for Tissue Preparation, Packaging and Shipping

**Human Tissue: Always use universal precautions**

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#### IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Cases are accepted on a case by case basis, requiring approval by the autopsy neuropathology team.
- **DO NOT** send a brain if you have not discussed with UW Autopsy and After Death Services (AADS) and you have been notified of neuropathologist acceptance of the case.

#### PREPARATION

1. **Carefully complete the PATHOLOGY SERVICE REQUEST FORM**  
At [www.pathology.washington.edu/clinical/neuropath/clinical.php](http://www.pathology.washington.edu/clinical/neuropath/clinical.php). Any missing information could delay the processing or results on the autopsy. Important: Provide **clinical information** and contact number for referring clinician.
2. **Brain:**
  - a. remove the brain in its entirety (cerebrum, brainstem and cerebellum)
  - b. record weight
  - c. place whole brain into a plastic bucket containing 10% buffered formalin (don't ship yet).
  - d. After 5 days change formalin. After 10 days brain can be shipped.
  - e. place dura matter, if available, into the formalin along with the brain.
3. Secure lid firmly on the bucket.
4. Label specimen clearly with the decedent's name.

#### SHIPPING

5. After the 10 days the fixed brain tissue may be shipped overnight. Seal the tissue in an airtight plastic bag with either **a)** 5ml of formalin or **b)** wrapped in formalin soaked gauze or towel. Seal in a second airtight plastic bag and place in a box heavily padded with packing material.
6. Enclose copy of any available medical records with the tissue.
7. Tape securely for overnight shipping.

#### Shipping/Overnight Service (Monday-Thurs)

Attention: Autopsy and After Death Services

UWMC Pathology, BB250

1959 NE Pacific Street

Seattle, WA 98195

**LABEL ALL PACKAGES:**    **“DIAGNOSTIC TISSUE SPECIMEN”**    NOTIFY 206-598-4205 immediately upon arrival to arrange for pickup by UW AADS

#### 8. TELEPHONE CALL

Call 206-598-4205 to inform the UW Autopsy & After Death Services (AADS) Team the specimen is coming.

#### QUESTIONS?

During day hours (7am- 4pm), please call UWMC Autopsy & After Death Services (AADS) at 206-598-4205.

After hours/weekend/holiday, please call paging operator and ask for the AADS staff member on-call at 206-598-6190.

**Thank you for carefully following these instructions.**