



CLINICAL COMMUNICATION

Do Not Submit Stents, Pacemakers, Catheters, Clips, Foreign Bodies, Mesh, Plates, Nails, or Screws for Pathology Examination

Date Issued: June 20, 2017

Date Revised: July 21, 2017

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, plates, nails and screws for which there is no clinical reason to request a pathology examination should be disposed of according to site procedure. These specimens should not routinely be submitted for examination to the pathology department.

Please refer to WRHA Policy 110.220.060 [Medical Devices - Implanted and Explanted, Management of](#) for further information regarding tracking and handling of explanted medical devices.

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 Policy #110.220.070: [Pathology Specimens \(Management of\) – Acute Care Setting](#)

WRHA Policy #110.220.060: [Medical Devices - Implanted and Explanted, Management of](#)

DSM Contact Information:

Dr. Gabor Fischer
Medical Director, Anatomical Pathology
gfisher@dsmanitoba.ca
Phone: 204-237-2851

Dr. Julianne Klein
Chair, Quality Assurance &
Standards Committee, DSM
jklein@dsmanitoba.ca
Phone: 204-237-2498