Quality Assurance

Pap smear screening is performed by Cytotechnologists (registered or registry eligible by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists). Pathologists (physicians who are certified by the American Board Pathology) perform interpretation of reactive and reparative changes and all cellular abnormalities on pap smears and all interpretations on Non-Gynecological cytology.

Supervisory eligible personnel rescreen approximately 10% of all negative cases to confirm the original diagnosis and to reduce the percentage of false negative findings. Quality assurance monitors evaluate on an on- going basis the performance of all testing personnel as well as the performance of the overall laboratory. Continuing education and quality assurance conferences are held regularly between pathologists and cytotechnologists to discuss educational, difficult, interesting or unusual cases.

Specimen Transport of Cytology Specimens

For **all** specimens submitted on glass slides the patient's name should be legibly printed (pencil or indelible ink) on the frosted end of **each** glass slide. For non-gynecologic specimens, **each** specimen container must be labeled with the patient's name and the specimen type/site and second identifier. Pap smears should be placed into plastic or cardboard slide containers and then into the plastic biohazard transport bag (1 specimen/bag). Non-gynecologic specimens that are submitted as fluids should be transported in a sealable container, and placed in a plastic transport bag whenever possible. For all specimens the transport bag should be securely zipped shut and the requisition placed into the pocket on the outside of the bag.

Specimen Rejection of Cytology Specimens

Cytology specimens submitted without a patient name on the specimen will be returned to the client for patient identification. We are required to verify patient identification for all specimens submitted. Specimens which cannot be processed or tested due to inadequate fixation, leaking specimen containers, slides received shattered beyond repair etc. will not be processed. A report indicating the reason for specimen rejection will be issued to the client and no charges will be made for those specimens. Every attempt will be made to prevent delay in testing or compromised results for the safety of you and your patient.