MSH Emergency Department

MSH Process for Analysis of Products of Conception (POC)

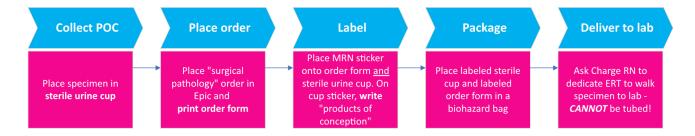
Last Reviewed: 1/18/2022

Description of Process: The goal of this document is to standardize the process for sending presumed products of conception (POC) for pathology confirmation to the surgical pathology lab.¹

Scope:

- If a patient brings to the ED, produces in the ED, or on exam is found to have presumed POC, with the patient's permission, the specimen should be sent to the surgical pathology lab for analysis to confirm that the tissue is in fact POC.
- The pathology lab analysis involves looking for chorionic villi microscopically to confirm the
 presence of fetal tissue. This is the standard analysis for confirming POC. This testing takes
 about 1 week to process.

Overview:

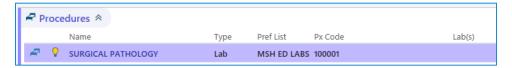


Detailed Process:

- 1. Place presumed POC specimen in correct container & medium
 - a. Place the specimen in a **formalin cup** or a **sterile urine cup** without any medium in it (called a "**fresh**" sample by the pathology lab no formalin, no other liquid, just the sample in sterile container). The surgical pathology lab will then add Formalin once the sample reaches the pathology lab.
 - b. If OBGYN is involved and is requesting genetic testing with chromosomal analysis, use sterile urine cup and ensure the sample is placed in the fridge immediately if it cannot be directly transported to the lab.
 - c. If specimen is larger than fits in sterile cup, OBGYN should be involved given likely gestational age and can bring a **placental bucket** from the L&D floor in which to place the specimen. See special circumstances section below regarding a developed fetus.

¹ This workflow does not incorporate sending POC for **genetic testing**, which should only be done in consultation with OBGYN, who should order and send sample.

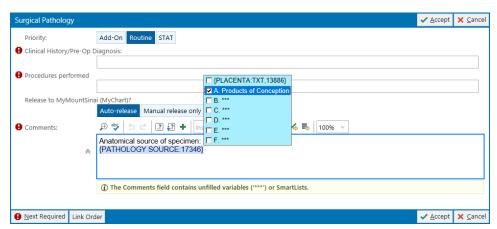
- 2. Place surgical pathology order in Epic
 - a. Type "surgical pathology" into Epic orders section
 - b. Select Surgical Pathology order:

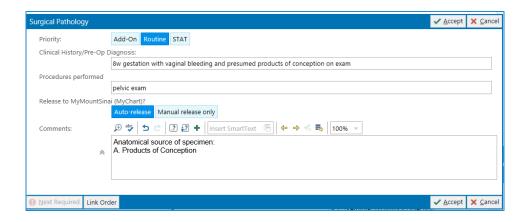


- c. Fill in the necessary areas:
 - Clinical History/Pre-Op Diagnosis: provide brief scenario
 - Procedures performed: eg., pelvic exam, MVA

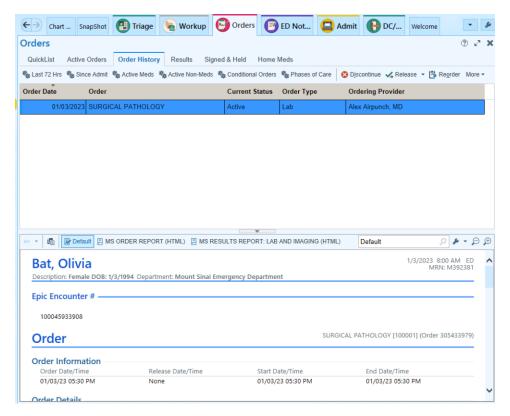


- Comments: Under anatomical source of specimen, use F2 to see list of options and choose "A: ***", hit F2 and type: "Products of conception":
 - Important! The lab will not process the specimen if any other source is written in the comments section for pathology source (including vaginal canal, cervix, uterus).

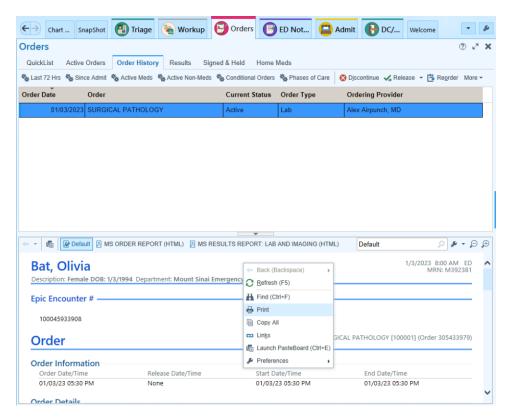




- 3. Send the specimen to the lab with the correct document(s) and labeling
 - a. Place patient's MRN sticker directly onto the outside of sterile cup containing the sample. Write on the sticker "Products of Conception."
 - b. Placing the surgical pathology order in Epic generates a "requisition form" (printable order) that must be printed. This IS NOT a typical lab label that the RN prints.
 - Go to "Order History" in the Order section of Epic > Select your "Surgical Pathology" order:



Print the order form:



- Attach the patient's MRN sticker to this printed order
- Place the form inside a biohazard bag with the sample
- c. Specimens sent to the surgical pathology lab CANNOT be tubed to the lab. The ED Provider should notify the Charge RN who will assign an ER Tech to walk the labeled specimen and related form(s) to the Surgical Pathology lab, which is located on the 15th floor of the Annenberg Building, Room 33. The specimen DOES NOT need to be placed over ice when bringing to the pathology lab.
- d. The Surgical Pathology Lab is open Monday-Friday 6am-8pm and Saturday 8am-2pm. Specimens can only be brought to the lab for analysis during these hours. Outside of these hours, no one is in the pathology lab to receive the sample.
 - <u>If specimen is obtained outside of these hours</u>: Place the sample in the **ED** biohazard fridge (Zone A or Zone G dirty utility closet) and **notify the ANM** who will notify the incoming ANM of the need for the sample to be brought to the lab once the lab reopens.

4. Special circumstances:

 a. During Epic downtime: Instead of the Epic order, complete the Epic downtime form (under Epic Documents > Printable Forms > Downtime Procedures > "ED Downtime Surgical Pathology Requisition Form") and bring this form with the specimen to the lab. ■ As above, write "products of conception" as the **site of specimen** (NOT vagina, uterus, etc.)

b. In the event of a developed fetus:

- Involve Social Work early to assist with logistics as well as bereavement
- OBGYN and the complex family planning team have the necessary burial forms and should be involved as needed
- Burial requirements and requests:
 - > 24 weeks gestation: NYC DOH requires all fetuses at this gestational age to be buried
 - a. Inform the parent that this is a requirement
 - b. SW to assist with options for private vs city burial (default is city burial if no decision is made)
 - 2. < 24 weeks gestation: a burial can be offered to the patient, but is not required
 - a. Offer the option of having the fetus buried after the fetus is sent to the surgical pathology lab for confirmation of POC
- If burial required or requested as above:
 - Place in comments under the Surgical Pathology order "Please hold for private burial"
 - Pathology lab will do a gross visual inspection of the fetus to confirm POC
 - 3. The fetus will then be brought to the morgue to facilitate burial processes with the patient