

Pregnancy Remains

It is the policy of Allina Health Laboratory that any products of conception (POC) specimen or any specimen containing fetal parts submitted for examination or testing is handled in a sensitive manner in accordance with all Minnesota laws.

Products of Conception (POC); *less than 20 weeks gestation*

Products of conception (POC) specimens may be identified as POC, fetal tissue, uterine contents, vaginal bleed contents (usually from ED), and sometimes suspected ectopic pregnancy (typically a portion of fallopian tube).

- *A Pathology Tissue Exam is required on all POC specimens.*
- *An intact fetus <20 weeks and a Fetus >20 weeks will be treated as an autopsy.*
- All pregnancy remains specimens require a [Client Choices for Disposition, Testing & Examination of Pregnancy Remains Form](#).

Test request(s)

1. Pathology tissue exam (6292)
2. Pathology tissue exam, placenta (12377)
 - POC may be ordered as a part B on the case
3. Cytogenetic products of conception (4280C)
 - Order test 4280C and indicate testing requested
 - Two requisitions or Excellian orders must be submitted (Path tissue exam and Cytogenetics)

Refer to the Allina Health Laboratory [Test catalog](#) for complete test information and sample requirements.

Consent to release of remains

- An Allina Health Client Choices for Disposition, Testing & Examination of Pregnancy Remains Form, available on the Forms page of our website, must accompany the POC specimen to indicate the disposition and testing wishes of the family
- POC specimens submitted to Allina Health Laboratory will be held for 4 weeks
- If no Consent to Release/Disposition form is received, a hospital arranged disposition of the remains including cremation and common burial at Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis will occur after the retention period

Fetal Remains (fetus); *greater than 20 weeks gestation*

Specimens that are greater than 20 weeks gestation generally follow the same route as adult human remains, meaning they can only be dispositioned via a funeral home. If an autopsy or cytogenetic testing is not being requested, the remains must go directly to the funeral home and should not be sent to Allina Health Laboratory.

Fetal Autopsy requests

Autopsies can only be provided by Allina Health Laboratory if Hospital Pathology Associates (HPA) provides services for your facility. If HPA does not provide services for your facility, the remains should not be sent to Allina Health Laboratory.

To arrange for a Fetal autopsy:

1. Complete required form:
 - a. Client Choices for Disposition, Testing & Examination of Pregnancy Remains Form.
 - i. The authorization must indicate whether a complete autopsy or an external exam only (measurements and gross description only, no dissection performed) is requested and indicate the disposition wishes of the family.
2. Notify the Allina Health Laboratory Pathology department of the pending autopsy
 - a. Call 612-863-9185, if no answer, leave a message
 - b. Fax the completed a. Client Choices for Disposition, Testing & Examination of Pregnancy Remains Form to 612-863-8375
3. Transport remains and required forms.
 - a. Contact the Funeral home of your choice to arrange transport of the body from your facility to the Allina Health Laboratory Central Laboratory autopsy suite on the Abbott Northwestern Hospital campus.

Cytogenetics testing

If only cytogenetics testing is requested, and no autopsy is required, submit an Excellian order or completed cytogenetics requisition for Cytogenetic products of conception (4280C) and specify the testing requested. **Do not send the entire Fetus for cytogenetics only orders**, reference the [Chromosome study - Products of conception-4280C specimen collection of fetal tissue](#) in the Allina test catalog for specimen collection.

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