



# Placenta Pathology Guidelines

**GUIDELINE:**

To identifying abnormalities in neonates and/or placenta.

**EQUIPMENT NEEDED:**

Container with patient’s name and medical record number on a label, placed in a Biohazard bag with a biohazard sticker.  
Pathology slip

Criteria for formal evaluation by pathology or per MD order:

- <37 weeks gestation
- Multiple gestation
- Neonates with apgar <3 @ 1’and <7 @ 5’
- Stillbirth
- Clinical chorioamnionitis
- Placentas with gross abnormalities
- IUGR
- Provider request

A delayed request for formal evaluation may be made if there is a change in status of newborn, i.e. development of neonatal seizures.

\*Pathology slip is not required for normal vaginal deliveries or c-section not meeting the above criteria.

**PROCEDURE:**

Placenta in properly labeled container will be placed in specimen refrigerator with attached pathology slip filled out. It will be picked up by distribution and delivered to the pathology lab.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Patients may request to take their placenta(s) home by day of discharge. Notify Pathology to complete the pathology paperwork. Otherwise, placentas not meeting the above criteria will be sent to pathology for storage for a two-week period. After that time, they will be destroyed. Within this period, pathology will review tissue if, in the clinician’s judgment, the tissue submitted merits more specific documentation.

**REFERENCES:**

ACOG Committee Opinion, Number 125. Placental Pathology. July 1993.

<b>Policy ID and Title:</b>	BP.0018: Placenta Pathology Guidelines
<b>Owner:</b>	Birthing Pavilion Committee <a href="#">email</a>
<b>Review Dates:</b>	9/04/2005, 11/2/2002
<b>Revision History:</b>	11/04/2005