

Outline for Provision of FFPE Material from COVID-19 Positive Autopsy Cases for Research Investigations

COVID-19 autopsy cases that have provided consent by the next of kin, by filling the UAB Autopsy Consent form, for tissue utilization in research will be used for scientific investigations. Any case for which consent has not been provided will be excluded for research.

1. The COVID-19 positive case autopsy tissue blocks will be stored as routine in autopsy files. Autopsy attending will inform TBR (Kathy Sexton/Susan Pruitt and CC Dr. Al Diffalha) about the case once it is finalized. When there is a COVID-19 case, for which consent has been provided, the autopsy attending will alert Dr. Benson, head of UAB Autopsy facility, who will forward the information to TBR staff (Kathy Sexton, Susan Pruitt, and Dr. Sameer Al Diffalha).
2. TBR personnel (Susan Pruitt) will create a log of COVID-19 autopsy cases from which blocks can be made available (autopsy #, date of death, date of autopsy, hours post mortem, age, race, sex of patient, other conditions that might be known). This will provide the TBR (and autopsy staff, if needed) and research investigators with information about potential cases that can be reviewed quickly.
3. Requests for autopsy tissue from COVID-19 cases will be referred to the COVID-19 Biospecimen Governance Committee by completion of the Biospecimen Request Form (go.uab.edu/covid19-enterprise)
4. Jennifer Croker will refer requests for FFPE material from COVID-19 cases to the UAB-TBR Associate Director (Kathy Sexton), along with information provided by the investigator when they completed the Biospecimen Request Form, including a copy of the investigator's IRB approval.
5. The autopsy attending may work with the researcher to select the most appropriate tissue or block for the proposed study. Accordingly, the specific block for the researcher will be identified for the TBR.
6. The TBR staff will follow-up with the researcher, if needed, to obtain any further details as to what tissue they want, the number and types of slides/cores requested, and at what thickness.
7. The TBR staff will pull the blocks and document (both in Autopsy and in the TBR) the date the block was pulled and where it is being stored.
8. The TBR staff will enter the case into the TBR database, assigning a COVID-19 Enterprise unique identifier to each block.
9. The TBR histology staff will prepare slides (H&E stained and/or unstained), as requested by the investigator, labeling them with the de-identified TPN code.
10. The TBR staff will obtain a copy of the final autopsy report on the case.

11. The TBR, based on the request, will provide the slides (or cores) and a de-identified copy of the autopsy report to the investigator.
12. An invoice will be generated by the TBR office staff for the histology services provided by the TBR.
13. The TBR Staff will return the blocks to autopsy storage and document the date of return both in Autopsy and in the TBR records.
14. The TBR Staff will notify the COVID-19 Enterprise Research Team to what services were provided from COVID-19 cases for the investigator.