

Epic – Anatomic Pathology Specimen Navigator – Workflow FAQs

1. How does Epic Specimen Navigator impact the Pathology Laboratory workflow?

Epic Specimen Navigator integrates directly with Cerner Millennium (LIS) to streamline the specimen flow from operating rooms (OR) and procedural areas to the pathology laboratory.

- **Electronic Orders:** All specimen orders are entered and transmitted electronically through Epic.
- **Labeling:** Specimen jars are labeled with Cerner-generated labels in the OR, ensuring accurate patient and case linkage.
- **No Paper Requisition:** No requisition forms will accompany specimens.
- **Log-in Specimens:** A step-by-step guide can be found in tip sheet “Receiving Orders in Cerner Millennium.”
- **Accessioning Process:** A step-by-step guide can be found in SOP “Accessioning of Electronic Anatomic Pathology Specimen in Cerner Millennium”.
- **Verification and Workflow:** Once case information is confirmed to be accurate and Cerner labels are affixed to all containers, the case proceeds through the standard pathology workflow, beginning in the gross room.

In summary, Epic Specimen Navigator improves efficiency by eliminating manual order entry, minimizing labeling errors, and preserving the familiar Cerner-based workflow after accessioning.

2. Will there be a paper requisition or completion form sent with the specimens to the pathology laboratory?

No separate requisition or completion forms will be sent to Pathology beyond what accompanies the specimen.

- All orders are placed electronically in Epic.
- Two completion forms are generated:
 1. One copy is added to the patient’s chart.
 2. The second copy is placed in the logbook in the procedural area.
- If Pathology team members pick up specimens from procedural areas, they will sign the completion form in the book.
- If specimens are delivered by courier, the accessioning team signs the completion form and returns it with the courier for the logbook.

3. How will the lab be alerted of corrections or modifications to orders placed in Epic?

- If any corrections are made, a completion form with highlighted corrections will be sent to the lab.
- The accessioning team will ensure corrections are reflected in Cerner, scan the corrected form into Cerner, and return the hard copy to be added to the logbook.

4. What is the process for documenting Frozen Sections or Intraoperative Consultations?

Wave 1 sites are instructed to follow their current process for these requests after the Epic go-live. Sites should use their current frozen section requisition forms for documentation.

Note: If a completion form accompanies a frozen section requisition, it must be signed by the laboratory team and returned with the courier to be filed in the logbook.

5. What additional resources available to the lab to assist with this transition?

- **Log-In Specimens:** See tip sheet “Log-In Anatomic Pathology Specimens in Cerner Millennium”
- **Viewing Pending Orders:** See tip sheet “Viewing Pending Orders”
- **Consultation Case Registration:** See tip sheet “Slide Order Encounter Tip Sheet”
- **Downtime Procedures:** Follow the current workflow and refer to “Downtime Forms”
- **SOPs:** “Accessioning Electronic Anatomic Pathology Specimens in Cerner Millennium: and “Downtime Forms and Procedures”
- **Escalation or Support:**
 - For High Priority & Urgent Patient Impacting Issues, call the Northwell Help Desk at 516-470-7272
 - For Non-Urgent & Non-Critical Issues: Create a ticket in TechConnect @ Employee Center Homepage
- **Other:**
 - Visit MS Teams Channels: [1 Anatomic Pathology | NWH Epic Lab Service Line | Microsoft Teams](#)
 - To view demo videos, access tipsheets, get familiar with the Specimen Navigator Simulator, and more visit: https://labs.northwell.edu/epic/tips/or_optime.php