

Cellular pathology Diagnostic turnaround times

1.0 Cellular Pathology reporting: Agreed Turnaround times.

1.0.1 Diagnostic priority is given to specimens from patients who are on a diagnostic cancer pathway, known as CWT specimens. We aim to report 80% of these cases within 10 days of receipt.

Some specimen types have agreed shorter reporting times based on tissue type. These are:

1.0.1.1	Cardiac transplant biopsies	1 day
1.0.1.2	Transbronchial transplant biopsies	1 day
1.0.1.3	Urgent renal biopsies	1 day (verbal report only)
1.0.1.4	Breast core/Vacuum assisted biopsies	5 days
1.0.1.5	Melanoma screening clinic biopsies	5 days
1.0.1.6	Prostate core biopsy	6 days

1.0.2 All other urgent cases must be discussed with a clinician so that an urgent reporting time can be defined and agreed, based on the clinical urgency.

1.0.3 100% of specimens from the Bowel cancer screening service should be reported within 7 days. As per the guidance published by PHE reporting 90% in 7 days is deemed as acceptable and 95% is deemed as achievable.

1.0.4 70% of all diagnostic cases will be reported within 10 days. This is to allow for those cases requiring extra examinations, decalcification or prolonged fixation.

1.0.5 Regional Coroner cases

- A provisional cause of death should be issued within 24 hours of PM.
- 95% of reports should be provided within 28 days of the last specialist test result.
- 95% of highly complex cases will be reported within 10 weeks.

1.0.6 Perinatal Post-mortem reports

- 12 weeks (from date of PM to available report)

1.0.7 Referred cases.

- TAT of 90% in 14 days from receipt for referred in cases provided the referral is to a team (as opposed to an individual).

1.0.8 Each tissue type has been assigned an agreed turnaround time, as defined in the appendix of this document. These turnaround times are monitored monthly, and trends are monitored every 4 months.



Description	Defined target time (days)
Breast specimens	
Axillary clearance	14
Cavity shave	14
Core biopsy	5
Core – vacuum assisted	5
Diagnostic excision biopsy	14
Duct excision/Hadfields	14
Mastectomy	14
Open biopsy	14
Breast reduction	14
Sentinel Lymph Node	14
Skin/nipple punch biopsy	5
Therapeutic mastoplasty	14
Wide local excision +/- nodes	14
Bone and Soft tissue specimens	
Bone biopsy	10
Bone excision	14
Bone metastatic disease	14
Primary excision	21
Limb	21
Retroperitoneal tumour	21
Diagnostic soft tissue biopsy	8
Lipoma	10
Soft tissue excision – benign	10
Soft tissue excision – malignant	14
Synovial biopsy/excision	10
Cardiothoracic specimens	
Artery/vein biopsy	15
Bronchial biopsy	10
Cardiac biopsy	10
Cardiac transplant biopsy	1
Explant heart/lung	42
Lung biopsy	10
Lung resection (whole lobe)	42
Lung wedge resection	15
Mediastinal biopsy	10
Pleura	15
Temporal artery biopsy	7
Thrombus	7
Tracheal biopsy	10



Transbronchial transplant biopsy	1
Thymus	42
Endocrine specimens	
Adrenal biopsy	28
Parathyroid specimens	42
Thyroid lobe/excision	28
Thyroid biopsy	7
Gastrointestinal specimens	
Biopsies from the oesophagus, stomach, small bowel, large bowel	20
Appendix	42
Gallbladder	42
Stoma	42
Omentum	20
Oesophagectomy	20
Gastrectomy	20
Small bowel resection	20
Large bowel resection	20
Gynaecological specimens	
Cervix biopsy	90% of cases in 10 days
Cervix polypectomy	42
Cervix wire loop	90% of cases in 10 days
Endometrial biopsy (curettage, pipelle)	42
Fallopian tube	42
Hysterectomy	42
Myomectomy	42
Omentum	42
Ovary	42
Vaginal/Vulval specimens	42
Head and neck specimens	
Aural/nasal polyp	42
Bone biopsy	28
Excisional biopsy	14
Lymph node	28
Mucosal biopsy	42
Resection	14
Skin biopsy	42
Laryngectomy	14
Neck dissection	14
Parotid	28
Salivary gland	42
Tongue biopsy	42
Tongue resection	14
Tonsil biopsy/resection	42



Vocal cord biopsy	42
Vocal cord resection	14
Hepatobiliary specimens	
Bile duct	14
Liver biopsy – lesional	10
Liver biopsy – medical	14
Liver transplant biopsy	14
Liver resection for metastatic disease	42
Liver resection for primary tumour	42
Liver explant	42
Lymph node	42
Pancreatic biopsy	14
Pancreatic resection/Whipples	42
Spleen (trauma)	42
Lymphoma team	
Lymph node – needle core/excision	14
Spleen biopsy/resection	14
Referred cases	14 (95%)
Neuropathology specimens	
Brain biopsy	10
Pituitary biopsy	10
Renal biopsies	
Renal biopsy	14
Renal transplant (over 1 year)	Urgent – verbal report 1 day
Transplant renal biopsy	Routine – verbal report 7 days
Skin specimens	
Eye conjunctival biopsy	5
Mohs debulk	5
Nail	14
Pilonidal sinus	7
Skin biopsy – melanoma screening clinic	5
Excision of cyst	5
Scoop biopsy	5
Groin/axilla dissection	14
GVHD biopsy	5
Large resection	14
Incisional biopsy	5
Lipoma	5
Punch biopsy	5
Biopsy from rash	7
Soft tissue biopsy	7
Sentinel Lymph node	20



Urology specimens	
Bladder biopsy/TURB	7
Bladder resection	21
Epididymis	42
Foreskin	42
Kidney nephrectomy (benign)	42
Kidney nephrectomy/partial (malignant)	14
Kidney biopsy for RCC	7
Penile biopsy	7
Perineum biopsy	7
Prostate core biopsy	6
Prostate TURP	42
Prostatectomy	42
Retroperitoneal LN dissection	14
Testicular biopsy/remnant	42
Testis orchidectomy	14
Urology Lymph node	14
Ureter biopsy	7
Ureter resection PUJ	42
Urethra biopsy	7
Urethra resection	42
Vas deferens	21

This information is an extract from CPQM003 Cellular Pathology performance targets which are available upon request.