**Referring Renal Biopsies to the RVI**

When referring fresh Renal Biopsies to RVI, Cellular Pathology always ensure the correct sampling and delivery techniques are employed.

**Centres without stereomicroscope access or BMS staff competent in renal assessment and dissection**

1. Write macroscopic description of tissue on histology request form including:
   1. Number of cores
   2. Length of cores
2. Wrap tissue in fine gauze or tissue wrap and dampen with Phosphate Buffered Saline ph7.2. Specimens must not dry out in transit or be sent floating in saline.
3. Place tissue in specimen pot labelled with
   1. Patient name
   2. Date of Birth
   3. Hospital number
4. Package specimen pot and form according to UN3373 guidelines
5. Send package urgently to Specimen reception, Cellular Pathology, Royal Victoria Infirmary
6. Inform RVI, Cellular Pathology of imminent arrival of specimen and provide contact details in order to complete chain of custody (0191 2824565)

**Centres with access to stereomicroscope and BMS staff competent in renal assessment and dissection**

On receipt of renal:

1. Assess glomerular content under stereomicroscope
2. If insufficient glomeruli present ask clinician to repeat biopsy if clinically appropriate
3. Identify nature of renal core:
   1. Recent transplant (less than 12 months since transplant)- Point 4
   2. Native (patient’s own kidney)- Point 5
   3. Old transplant (more than 12 months since transplant) Point 5
4. **Recent Transplant biopsies**
   1. **Check that clinical details do not mention recurrent glomerulonephritis- If they do go to point 5**
   2. Write macroscopic description of tissue on histology request form including:
      1. Number of cores
      2. Approximate number glomeruli present
      3. Length of cores
      4. State if further biopsies requested and if so whether provided by clinician
   3. Place core in specimen pot containing 10% Neutral Buffered Formalin
5. **Native Renal and Old Transplant renal**
   1. Write macroscopic description of tissue on histology request form
      1. Number of cores
      2. Approximate number glomeruli present
      3. Length of cores
      4. State if Further biopsies requested and if so whether provided by clinician
   2. Sample core for:
      1. Immunofluorescence (3-4 mm containing at least 3 glom) and place in specimen pot containing Michel’s medium (ensure this is done first to minimise risk of contamination with fixatives)
      2. Electron microscopy (1-2 mm containing 1-2 glom) and place in specimen pot containing glutaraldehyde
         1. After 60 minutes transfer into Sorenson’s Phosphate Buffered Sucrose
      3. Paraffin process (remainder of tissue) and place in 10% Neutral Buffered Formalin
6. Label all specimen pots with:
   1. Patient name
   2. Date of Birth
   3. Hospital number
   4. Tissue type
      1. For EM specimens indicate time into Glutaraldehyde and into Sorenson’s Phosphate Buffered Sucrose
7. Package specimen pots and form according to UN3373 guidelines
8. Send package urgently to RVI, Cellular Pathology
9. Inform RVI, Cellular Pathology (0191 2824565) of imminent arrival of specimen and provide contact details in order to complete chain of custody
10. Send specimens too:

Leazes Wing reception

Royal Victoria Infirmary

Victoria Road

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE1 4LP

1. If there are any concerns with any renal specimens please contact RVI, Cellular Pathology on 0191 2824565 in the first instance.