

# Evaluation of the Patient Sample

## SCHEDULE 1: Anatomical Pathology Sample Stability

The table below lists the sample stability for reliable results. Sample stability is determined from the time of specimen collection to receipt of the sample in the lab.

- Target transportation time for optimal results is 48 hours (up to 72 hours for weekends and holidays)
- Temperature stability is between at 2 – 25°C
- Refer to **F SAP 0007 J1** Histology Sample Submission Criteria Job Aid for correct transport, packing and shipping requirements
- **Winter Transport:** Between October 15th to April 30th, pack samples according to the outside temperature at originating **and** referral location encompassing a 24 hr period.
  - When temperatures dip below 0°C, heated transport should be arranged whenever possible to avoid freezing of samples.
  - If heated transport not available, consult with AP lab or pathologist to determine alternate shipping arrangements.
  - *The use of winter formalin as a fixative for surgical samples was discontinued as of July 9, 2018.*

Transport Solution	Sample Stability
10% Neutral Buffered Formalin (NBF)	Surgical samples are stable for the duration of storage <FS> when they are placed in 10% neutral buffered formalin (NBF). The volume of 10% NBF must be 20 times the volume of the tissue.
Fixatives other than 10% Neutral Buffered Formalin	Consult with laboratory.