

**It is an offence under S12 of the Human Tissue Act 1964 to perform any post-mortem or anatomical examination on a body or any part of a body unless you are a medical practitioner or are licenced under the Act to do so. The penalty may be a fine not exceeding \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months**

*By receipt of this written information you are agreeing not to use the body part or tissue for any unlawful purpose and acknowledge that the Bay of Plenty District Health Board shall take no responsibility whatsoever for the body part or tissue once it has been collected by you or your authorised representative.*

More information can be obtained by contacting...

Histopathology Laboratory  
Pathlab Bay of Plenty Ltd  
Phone 577 4511

Te Puna Hauora  
Tauranga Hospital  
Phone 579 8560

## Local service contacts...

|                                   |               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| CERVICAL SCREENING                | (07) 571 8975 |
| COMMUNITY ALCOHOL & DRUG SERVICES | (07) 579 8391 |
| COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH           | (07) 579 8329 |
| DISTRICT NURSING                  | (07) 579 8757 |
| MAISS SUPPORT NET                 | (07) 571 0093 |
| MATERNITY SERVICES                | (07) 579 8719 |
| REGIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICES       | (07) 571 8975 |
| REGIONAL MAORI HEALTH SERVICES    | (07) 579 8560 |
| TAURANGA HOSPITAL                 | (07) 579 8000 |
| TOI TE ORA PUBLIC HEALTH          | (07) 571 8975 |

*The Bay of Plenty District Health Board has an active commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi and the improvement of Maori health.*

## Tauranga Hospital

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# Information for patients requesting return of

# Body Parts or Tissue

# requiring histological examination

Following surgery, the body part or tissue that is removed from you is sent to the Histopathology Laboratory, Pathlab Bay of Plenty for analysis. The body part or tissue is described and appropriate samples removed so that an accurate diagnosis can be made.

This process usually takes between two to three days, but in some instances may take longer. Therefore, to enable the laboratory to complete all studies we request that **you contact the laboratory TWO weeks after surgery to arrange a convenient time to collect the body part or tissue ... phone 577 4511.**

The body part or tissue will be respectfully stored at the Histopathology Laboratory, MedLab Bay of Plenty for six weeks following surgery. If not collected within SIX weeks, it will be disposed of, without exception, as per Pathlab Bay of Plenty disposal protocol.

In some cases there may be insufficient tissue left to return (particularly small samples). In this instance, you will be contacted either by letter from the laboratory or by your doctor.

**BODY SUBSTANCES will not be returned.  
Any body part or tissue that may cause an infectious risk will not be returned.**

All body parts or tissue that is sent for histological examination is treated with a preservative, Formalin, used to prevent the decay of the body part or tissue. Formalin is a toxic substance and any skin contact may cause skin irritation (dry, flaking and itching skin). Although the body part or tissue is washed before return, small amounts of Formalin may still be present. It is therefore advisable that any handling after return be done whilst wearing plastic gloves.

In the event of direct skin contact, it is strongly recommended that the area be washed thoroughly with water.

The body part or tissue should be kept out of the reach of children.

Proper disposal of human body parts or tissue is important and this is your responsibility once you have collected the body part or tissue and signed the tissue release form.

Formalin will rust a metal container and therefore an alternative should be used.

When you decide to dispose of the tissue, we recommend that it is buried deeply, away from waterways. Alternatively, you can dispose of the tissue through a funeral director.