Histopathology fee policies and test codes
How to choose the correct number of sites for your biopsy submissions

Fees are determined by the number of sites, lesions/masses, or organs submitted. Use the appropriate test code based on number of sites.

- **For mammary chains**, you may submit the entire chain using test code 601016 (Biopsy, Priority with Microscopic Description—Entire Mammary Chain). Alternatively, you can submit individual sites; each mass in the chain is charged as a separate site. Lymph nodes in the mammary chain are sectioned and reviewed; they are not charged separately. However, if the lymph node is labeled and submitted individually in a separate container, it will be considered an additional site and charged accordingly.

- **For endoscopic biopsies**, you may submit multiple sites within the gastrointestinal tract using test code 601017 (Biopsy, Priority with Microscopic Description—Comprehensive Gastrointestinal Tract). Alternatively, you can submit individual sites from anatomically distinct regions, which are considered separate sites. However, if multiple specimens are in an anatomically similar location and included in the same jar, they will be charged as a single site and reviewed and interpreted as a whole. If the same specimens are submitted in separate jars, they will be charged separately and reviewed independently.

- **Punch biopsies of small masses** removed with a surgical biopsy punch tool are charged per site as individual masses.

  **Punch biopsies of generalized skin conditions** are charged as follows:
  - Up to 5 punches from affected skin region(s) [or area(s)] = 1 site
  - 6–10 punches = 2 sites

  **Uterus and ovaries** submitted en bloc are charged as 3 sites.
  - Uterus only = 1 site
  - One ovary = 1 site; both ovaries = 2 sites

  **Each testicle** is charged as a separate site.

  **Needle biopsies** from the same anatomical location are charged as 1 site.

  Individually labeled **lymph nodes** and **masses** are charged as separate sites.

  **Spleens** are charged as a single site, independent of how many masses are present, as multiple splenic masses often represent a single disease process.

  Each submitted **liver lobe** is charged as a separate site even if it contains a single mass, as liver can contain multiple independent conditions that may influence overall management of the patient. If there is more than 1 mass in the liver lobe, each additional mass represents an additional site.

  **Margins** are evaluated and measured grossly and microscopically, as applicable, free of charge.

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### Test codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test codes</th>
<th>Priority biopsy with microscopic description (2–3 working days)</th>
<th>Priority biopsy without microscopic description (2–3 working days)</th>
<th>Standard biopsy with microscopic description (3–5 working days)</th>
<th>Standard biopsy without microscopic description (3–5 working days)</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>601 (1 site)</td>
<td>608 (1 site)</td>
<td>2701 (1 site)</td>
<td>2711 (1 site)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6012 (2 sites)</td>
<td>6082 (2 sites)</td>
<td>2702 (2 sites)</td>
<td>2712 (2 sites)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6013 (3 sites)</td>
<td>6083 (3 sites)</td>
<td>2703 (3 sites)</td>
<td>2713 (3 sites)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6014 (4 sites)</td>
<td>6084 (4 sites)</td>
<td>2704 (4 sites)</td>
<td>2714 (4 sites)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** All biopsy samples are processed the same way, whether they are requested as “with microscopic description” or “without microscopic description.” The only difference between a report with description and one without is that results without will not have the pathologist’s notes regarding the morphologic changes that led to the final interpretation. Many customers find great value in selecting a without-description biopsy, especially for common lesions such as suspected lipomas or histiocytomas. All biopsies include a complete evaluation whether a description is ordered or not. If desired, a full microscopic description can always be ordered later as an add-on (test code 655).

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### Submitting tissue specimens for necropsy evaluation

This service is available to evaluate tissue specimens collected by the veterinarian at your practice after a necropsy.

**Note:** IDEXX Reference Laboratories does not perform whole-body necropsy.

Sample submission guidelines for necropsy evaluation are the same as for priority and standard biopsy submissions.

### Histopathology cancellation fee

Cancellation of specimen processing that is already in progress will incur a fee to cover laboratory costs.

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For additional test code lookup, protocol information, and histopathology fee policies, please refer to the Online Test Directory at vetconnectplus.com or call IDEXX at 1-888-433-9987.
Preparing and sending your specimen

1. **Provide** patient history, clinical signs, sample-site location, and number of sites for evaluation to help our pathologists give you the most comprehensive diagnosis.

2. **Choose** the appropriate biopsy test code to meet your needs: priority or standard turnaround time, number of sites with/without microscopic description.

3. **Place** specimen(s) in the appropriate size IDEXX-provided formalin container(s).

4. **Label** each container with the patient’s first and last name, collection date, specimen id, and veterinarian’s name. If specimen is very small, place in a microcassette before putting in a formalin container (microcassettes are available through IDEXX Reference Laboratories supplies).

5. To ensure all specimens for the same patient are processed together, **package** all jars with the requisition form into one bag. If there is not enough room to fit all jars into a single bag, use a larger resealable bag that will keep all sites submitted for the patient together, or wrap an elastic band around multiple bags for the same patient. Submit your histology samples per your normal FedEx® or courier service process.

Large tissue specimen shipping instructions

1. Large samples (samples that are too large to fit in IDEXX-provided formalin jars) should be shipped fresh, wrapped in gauze wetted with saline (not soaked).

2. Triple-bag the specimen, using 1–5 gallon freezer bags or 10-gallon red biohazard bags.* Place absorbents and ice packs inside the middle layer bag.

3. For FedEx shipping, use a box that fits the submission and place an IDEXX-provided prepaid shipping label on the outside of the box.†

4. Please send larger samples to IDEXX **Monday–Thursday only**. Specimens can be prepared and stored in a refrigerator if obtained Friday–Sunday.

**Note:** Larger specimens require additional time for fixation. Please anticipate a possible delay with normal turnaround time.

*This meets the DOT requirements for three layers of packaging.
†Customers do not need to use clinical packs if the shipping box is too large—submitting a sample without one will not cause a delay in biopsy testing.

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Need to order IDEXX Reference Laboratories supplies? Go to idexx.com and sign in to IDEXX Online Orders or call 1-888-433-9987.