

Grossing Templates

2025 Edition

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About This Document

This resource contains commonly used grossing and dictation templates for Pathologists' Assistants and trainees. These templates reflect real-world usage in a high-volume surgical pathology environment and are intended to support learning, workflow efficiency, and consistency in reporting.

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Grossing/General Templates

Appendix template

Received: [intact/nonintact appendix]

Dimensions: [_ cm in length and up to _ cm maximum in diameter]

Serosa: [Smooth and glistening/opacified/dusky/adhesions]

Mesoappendix: measures up to [] cm thickness

Perforation: [Absent]

Lumen contains: [Soft tan material/fecalith]

Diverticulum: [Present/Absent]

Tumor: [Present, location and distance from margin/Absent]

Proximal margin painted in blue ink

Representative sections:

A1. One half of distal tip, shaved proximal margin en face, and two mid transverse sections

Biopsy template

The specimen consists of [] portions of tan tissue ranging in size from [] cm greatest dimension. Tissue is submitted in toto in [].

Breast ink protocol 1

Specimen is inked as follows: Superior – blue, inferior – green, deep – black, lateral – orange and medial – yellow.

Breast ink protocol 2

Specimen is inked as follows: Anterior – violet, superior – blue, inferior – green, posterior – black, lateral – orange and medial – yellow.

Colon cancer template

Procedure: []

Length: [] cm

Margin circumference: proximal [] cm; distal [] cm

Tumour location: []

For rectal tumors only:

–Quirke method used: [Yes/No]

–TME quality: [Describe completeness, surface bulk, defects, coning]

–Tumor relative to anterior peritoneal reflection: [above/astride/below]

Gross Configuration: []

Tumour size: Longitudinal [] cm, Transverse [] cm, Thickness [] cm

Margins:

-Distance from tumor: Proximal [] cm/Distal [] cm/Radial [] cm

-Positive: []

Perforation: []

Obstruction: []

Gross depth of invasion: []

Distant tumour deposits: []

Lymph node dissection: []

Comment (secondary pathology): []

Ink Code: []

Photograph(s): []

Sections are submitted as follows:

[]

Decal template

[Specimen or Block A1 etc] decalcified

Time and Date into 17% formic acid/EDTA: [HHMM][YYYY-MM-DD]

Time and Date out of 17% formic acid/EDTA: [HHMM][YYYY-MM-DD]

Devitalization template

Devitalization Start Time: []

Fixation start time: []

Fixation end time: []

Total Fixation Time: []

Gallbladder template

Received: [intact/nonintact gallbladder]

Dimensions: [] cm in length; [] cm in diameter

Serosa: [Smooth and glistening/opacified/dusky/adhesions]

Lumen contains: [describe bile and calculi is present]

Wall thickness: [] cm

Mucosa: [describe; Smooth and velvety/roughened/pitted/ulcerated/cholesterolosis]

Polyp/tumor: [No]

Neck: [Patent/Obstructed]

Cystic duct: [Patent/Obstructed]

Cystic duct lymph node: [Present and size/Absent]

Other: []

Sections:

AI: Shaved cystic duct margin en face, one section of neck, two sections of fundus

Polyp template

Number of polyps indicated in chart: []

Number of pieces in container: []

Size: [] cm

Stalk: []

Resection margin: []

Submitted in toto:

[]

Prostate template

A [measurement] g prostate measuring [measurement] cm apex to base, [measurement] cm transversely, and [measurement] cm anterior to posterior. The attached right and left seminal vesicles measure [measurement] and [measurement] cm in length respectively. Margins are inked as follows: anterior strip with green ink, left lateral prostate gland with black ink, right lateral prostate gland with blue ink. Seminal vesicles are amputated and the interface between seminal vesicles and prostate gland is dyed with orange ink.

The prostate is blocked in its entirety from base to apex. The base and apex are sectioned in the sagittal plane and the remainder of the prostate is sectioned transversely.

Sections are taken as follows:

Right seminal vesicle [blocks]

Left seminal vesicle [blocks]

Right base [blocks]

Left base [blocks]

Right half [blocks]

Left half [blocks]

Right anterior [blocks]

Right posterior [blocks]

Left anterior [blocks]

Left posterior [blocks]

Right apex [blocks]

Left apex [blocks]

Skin templates

Skin flecks template

The specimen consists of tiny white flecks. No tissue grossly identified. The container is filtered and submitted in toto in one cassette.

Skin punch biopsy template

The specimen consists of a circular portion of skin and underlying tissue measuring [] cm in diameter, [] cm in depth. Subcutaneous fat [is/is not] grossly identified. Resection margin inked blue. [Tissue is bisected]. Totally submitted in one cassette.

Bone Marrow templates

Bone marrow aspirate template

The sample consists of bone marrow aspirate submitted in 10% neutral buffered formalin fixative. The sample is submitted in aggregate, measuring [_x _ x_] cm in one cassette.

Bone marrow biopsy template

The sample consists of a bone marrow biopsy core submitted in B-Plus fixative, decalcified in 17% formic acid for 3 hours. The sample consists of [# of piece] fragment(s), measuring [greatest dimension] cm, submitted in one cassette.

Freshing templates

Fresh uterus template

Weight: [] g

Size: [] cm

Ex cx mucosa [complete/incomplete]; size [] cm

Cx os: [round/oval/slit-like]

Cx history: [+/-]

Fallopian tubes/ovaries: [present/not present/rec'd detached]

Photos: [Yes/No]

Placenta templates

Placenta single

The specimen consists of a single placenta with [attached/detached] membranes and umbilical cord.

Membranes:

- [incomplete/complete], point of rupture [] cm from the nearest margin
- Insertion: [normal marginal/circumvallate/circummarginate]
- Colour: [normal/cloudy/meconium stained/???]
- Odour: [none/a foul odour] is present.

Cord:

- Length: [] cm and the diameter is [] cm, [] coils per 5 cm.
- Insertion;
- [normal/furcate]
- [central/eccentric/marginal/velamentous]
- Amniotic webs: [absent/present].
- Cord lesions are [not seen/seen].
- [] vessels

Placenta:

- Trimmed weight: [grams], shape is [round/oval/irregular/bi-lobate]
- Measurements [] maximally
- Fetal surface is [normal/meconium stained]
- Fetal vessels are [normal/thrombosed]
- Amnion [intact/stripped/partially stripped]
- Lesions [subamniotic cysts/subamniotic hemorrhage/thick subchorionic fibrin/amnion nodosa/other describe/not identified]
- Maternal surface;
- [intact/disrupted/complete/incomplete].
- retroplacental/marginal hemorrhage [absent/present]
- Focal lesions [absent/present]
- Parenchyma (cross sections)
- [normal colour/congested/pale]
- Focal lesions [absent/present].

No other gross abnormality is identified.

Representative sections are submitted as follows;

- A1 Proximal and distal cord and membranes
- A2 Full thickness section through placenta
- A3 Full thickness section through placenta
- A4 Full thickness section through placenta

Placenta twin template 1

(placenta twin with one disc)

Specimen consists of a twin placenta with single placental disc with attached membranes and umbilical cords. Cord marked with [] is designated as [], as indicated on the requisition. Cord unmarked is designated as []. A dividing membrane is identified: it is [].

TWIN A:

Membranes:

- complete, point of rupture [] cm from the nearest placental margin
- insertion: [normal marginal/circummarginate/circumvallate]
- colour: []
- odour: none

Cord:

- Length: [] cm, diameter: [] cm, [] coils/5 cm
- Insertion:
 - [normal/furcate]
 - [eccentric/marginal/central/velamentous (with intact vessels traversing _cm of free membranes maximally)]
- Amniotic webs: [absent/present]
- Cord lesions not seen
- [] vessels

TWIN B:

Membranes:

- complete, point of rupture [] cm from the nearest placental margin
- insertion: [normal marginal/circummarginate/circumvallate]

- colour: []
- odour: none

Cord:

- Length: [] cm, diameter: [] cm, [] coils/5 cm
- Insertion:
 - [normal/furcate]
 - [eccentric/marginal/central/velamentous (with intact vessels traversing _cm of free membranes maximally)]
- Amniotic webs: [absent/present]
- Cord lesions not seen
- [] vessels

Placenta:

- Trimmed weight: [grams], shape is [round/oval/irregular/bi-lobate]
- Measurements [] maximally
- Relative proportion of disc in relation to vascular equator: twin A []%; twin B []%
- Fetal surface:
 - [normal/meconium stained]
 - Fetal vessels are [normal/thrombosed/constricted]
 - Vascular anastomosis: [absent/present (describe)]
 - Amnion [intact/stripped/partially stripped]
 - Lesions [subamniotic cysts/subamniotic hemorrhage/thick subchorionic fibrin/amnion nodosa/other describe/not identified]
- Maternal surface;
 - [intact/disrupted/complete/incomplete].
 - retroplacental/marginal hemorrhage are [absent/present]
 - Focal lesions [absent/present]
 - Parenchyma (cross sections)
 - [normal colour/congested/pale]
 - Focal lesions [absent/present].

Representative sections are submitted as follows:

- A1 T-zone with roll of dividing membrane
- A2 Twin A proximal and distal cord, membranes
- A3 Twin A full thickness section through placenta
- A4 Twin A full thickness section through placenta

- A5 Twin A full thickness section through placenta
- A6 Twin B proximal and distal cord, membranes
- A7 Twin B full thickness section through placenta
- A8 Twin B full thickness section through placenta
- A9 Twin B full thickness section through placenta

Placenta twin template 2

(placenta twin with separate discs)

Specimen consists of a twin placenta with single placental disc with attached membranes and umbilical cords. Cord marked with [] is designated as [], as indicated on the requisition. Cord unmarked is designated as []. A dividing membrane is identified: it is [].

TWIN A:

Membranes:

- complete, point of rupture [] cm from the nearest placental margin
- insertion: [normal marginal/circummarginate/circumvallate]
- colour: []
- odour: none

Cord:

- Length: [] cm, diameter: [] cm, [] coils/5 cm
- Insertion:
 - [normal/furcate]
 - [eccentric/marginal/central/velamentous (with intact vessels traversing _cm of free membranes maximally]
- Amniotic webs: [absent/present]
- Cord lesions not seen
- [] vessels

Placenta:

- Trimmed weight: [grams], shape is [round/oval/irregular/bi-lobate]
- Measurements: [] cm, maximally
- Fetal surface is [normal/meconium stained]
- Fetal vessels are [normal/thrombosed]
- Amnion [intact/stripped/partially stripped]

- Lesions [subamniotic cysts/subamniotic hemorrhage/thick subchorionic fibrin/amnion nodosa/other describe/not identified]
- Maternal surface;
- [intact/disrupted/complete/incomplete].
- retroplacental/marginal hemorrhage [absent/present]
- Focal lesions [absent/present]
- Parenchyma (cross sections)
- [normal colour/congested/pale]
- Focal lesions [absent/present].

TWIN B:

Membranes:

- complete, point of rupture [] cm from the nearest placental margin
- insertion: [normal marginal/circummarginate/circumvallate]
- colour: []
- odour: none

Cord:

- Length: [] cm, diameter: [] cm, [] coils/5 cm
- Insertion:
 - [normal/furcate]
 - [eccentric/marginal/central/velamentous (with intact vessels traversing _cm of free membranes maximally)]
- Amniotic webs: [absent/present]
- Cord lesions not seen
- [] vessels

Placenta:

- Trimmed weight: [grams], shape is [round/oval/irregular/bi-lobate]
- Measurements [] maximally
- Fetal surface is [normal/meconium stained]
- Fetal vessels are [normal/thrombosed]
- Amnion [intact/stripped/partially stripped]
- Lesions [subamniotic cysts/subamniotic hemorrhage/thick subchorionic fibrin/amnion nodosa/other describe/not identified]
- Maternal surface;
- [intact/disrupted/complete/incomplete].
- [retroplacental/marginal hemorrhage] [is/are] [absent/present]

- Focal lesions [absent/present]
- Parenchyma (cross sections)
- [normal colour/congested/pale]
- Focal lesions[absent/present].

Representative sections are submitted as follows:

- A1 T-zone with roll of dividing membrane
- A2 Twin A proximal and distal cord, membranes
- A3 Twin A full thickness section through placenta
- A4 Twin A full thickness section through placenta
- A5 Twin A full thickness section through placenta
- A6 Twin B proximal and distal cord, membranes
- A7 Twin B full thickness section through placenta
- A8 Twin B full thickness section through placenta
- A9 Twin B full thickness section through placenta