

# Outpatient Laboratory Services

St. Joseph Health System—Sonoma County Pathology is dedicated to providing comprehensive diagnostic services to physicians and patients throughout Sonoma County. Pathology is located within Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, which is part of the larger St. Joseph Health System, consisting of 14 hospitals throughout California and Texas.

As part of our commitment to providing quality care, the Pathology department at St. Joseph Health System—Sonoma County is accredited by several local and national organizations. **(Is it important that the organizations be mentioned?)** We provide the highest quality in services for a wide range of diagnostic tests.

## Services

Our Pathology department is concerned with all aspects of disease, through the examination of organs, tissues, cells, and bodily fluids.

As a full-fledged laboratory, the Pathology department offers an extensive library of services, including:

- General anatomic and surgical pathology
- Non-gynecologic cytopathology (Fluids)
- Gynecologic cytology (Pap smear screening)
- Immunohistochemical staining
- Histology Services
- Prognostic markers for breast cancer treatment
- HPV testing
- In Situ Hybridization techniques (ISH)

Our Pathology department examines more than 14,000 tissue and cytology specimens and more than 4,000 Pap smear specimens by outside facilities. Physician offices and outpatient surgery centers throughout the region have come to rely on our pathology department to provide accurate and timely diagnostic services.

Additionally, operating room surgeons may request a frozen section diagnosis. The tissue will be frozen, sectioned, and stained immediately. If necessary, during an operating procedure, a surgeon can receive a verbal report from the pathologist within 10 to 15 minutes of receiving the specimen.

## Pathology

Surgical Pathology

\*Specimen Collection Instructions

\* Request form requirements

\*Report turn-around-time

\*Sample of reports

\*list of special studies available

Immunohistochemistry (with antibody library listed)

Special Stains available

Computer Assisted Imaging  
Photomicrographs  
\*Patient Care Conferences and Tumor Boards with pathology participation.  
\*links to outside patient education sites

## **Cytopathology**

\* Request form requirements  
\*Pap Smears  
Liquid based technique  
ThinPrep  
SurePath  
Conventional  
\*HPV (human papilloma virus) testing  
\*CT/GC testing on liquid based pap smears  
\*Non Gyn Cytology  
\*links to outside patient education sites

## **Histology**

\*Grossing, embedding, microtomy  
\*Third party billing available  
\*Turn-around-time for slides

## **Specimen Testing and Diagnosis**

The pathology department provides diagnostic tests on hundreds of specimens. To find out information on a specific test, use the link below:

### **LIST OF TESTS LINK (UCSF)**

The department provides all necessary supplies for the fixation and transportation of pathology specimens and Pap smears. Courier service is available 7 days a week from 6 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. There is no charge for this service. All pathology specimens received by 4:30 p.m. are processed the same day, with results available the following morning.

All pathology specimens are diagnosed by Wilber & Associates Pathology, a fully accredited laboratory:

- **Richard R. Wilber, M.D.** has more than 20 years of experience as Medical Director in a hospital setting and currently serves as the Medical Director of Clinical Laboratory and Anatomic Pathology at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital and Petaluma Valley Hospital.
- **Mark J. DeMeo, M.D.** previously served as Medical Director of the Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital Laboratory for 25 years.
- **John A. Wolfe, M.D.** has an extensive background in general anatomic and clinical pathology, as well as forensic medicine.

As part of our continuing education, our Pathology Laboratory also maintains an extensive library of immunohistochemical antibodies and special stains, which enables our pathologists to accurately classify disease processes, thereby reducing the need for additional outside testing.

### **Turnaround Time for Results**

Typically, turnaround times for routine pathology results are less than 24 hours from the time the specimen is received. Specimens that require additional processing are normally available within 24 to 48 hours from the time the specimen is received.

### **Reporting Procedures**

Final pathology reports are automatically faxed to the physician's office on the day they are completed. Reports may also be obtained from any location via the Physician Connect website or Meditech, the hospital computer system. In the future, we will be able to exchange electronic data with a physician's office, allowing us to transmit final pathology reports directly to the patient's chart at their doctor's office.

## **Patient Service Centers**

### **Santa Rosa Draw Station**

500 Doyle Park Drive, Suite G01  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405  
Monday—Friday, 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM  
(707) 525-5270  
(707) 544-2431 (fax)

[\(Map and Directions\)](#)

### **Rohnert Park Draw Station**

1450 Medical Center Drive, Suite 1  
Rohnert Park, CA 94928  
Monday—Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Saturday, 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
\*Closed for lunch from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM\*  
(707) 521-6450  
(707) 521-6476 (fax)

[\(Map and Directions\)](#)

### **Windsor Draw Station**

8465 Old Redwood Hwy, Suite 320  
Windsor, CA 95492  
Monday—Friday, 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM  
\*Closed for lunch from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM\*  
(707) 546-3699  
(707) 546-9299 (fax)

[\(Map and Directions\)](#)

## Petaluma Draw Station

110 Lynch Creek Way, Suite B

Petaluma, CA 94954

Monday—Friday, 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM

(707) 778-2749

(707) 778-2753 (fax)

[\(Map and Directions\)](#)

## Frequently Asked Questions

(Other questions you want to include?)

### Do I need to fast?

Certain tests (such as glucose or a cholesterol panel) require fasting. Generally, your physician will indicate on your lab order form if fasting is required. If you are unsure whether or not you need to fast, please consult with your physician prior to visiting the Patient Service Center.

### What is fasting?

Fasting requires that you do not eat or drink anything except water for 12 – 14 hours prior to your lab test. All medicines should be taken as usual; however, coffee and tea are not permitted.

### Do I need an appointment?

Appointments for routine lab work are not necessary. Patients are seen on a first come, first serve basis.

### Can I get a copy of my results?

To obtain your results, you will need to sign an authorization to release Protected Health Information (PHI) . A copy of your results can be obtained from Medical Records at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital or Petaluma Valley Hospital. Please allow 7 days to process this request.

### Will my insurance pay for this?

The Patient Service Centers accept most insurance

plans. If you are covered by Medicare, please refer to the section titled “Guide for Medicare Patients” on the inside of this brochure. Our website features a comprehensive list of contracted insurance plans at:  
[www.stjosephhealth.org/patientinfo\\_finding.aspx](http://www.stjosephhealth.org/patientinfo_finding.aspx)

## **Guide for Medicare Patients**

### **Advanced Beneficiary Notice**

An Advanced Beneficiary Notice, or ABN, serves as advanced notice that the test(s) you are having performed may not be covered by Medicare. The ABN outlines the test(s) that are in question. If Medicare denies payment, the ABN informs you that you will be financially responsible for your bill.

### **Signing the ABN**

If required, you will be asked to sign the ABN form before laboratory testing is performed. You may choose to: 1) Assume responsibility for payment of test(s) that Medicare may not cover and continue with testing or 2) Refuse responsibility for payment of test(s) that Medicare may not cover and decline testing. If you do not sign the ABN and insist that the laboratory perform testing, you will be held responsible for payment if Medicare denies coverage.

### **Medical Necessity Requirement**

Medicare covers only those tests and services that are necessary and reasonable for your treatment. All care providers must report information related to the patient’s symptom and/or diagnosis so that Medicare can determine if the tests are medically necessary.

### **Billing Procedure**

The laboratory will bill Medicare directly for testing ordered by your physician. Your Medicare number will be submitted along with the type of testing to be performed and the diagnosis provided by your physician. If you have any questions regarding the eligibility of your test(s), you should consult with your healthcare provider beforehand. You may also contact the local Medicare office at (800) 522-8323 or visit the website [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)