

 B.S. Aquino Drive, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, 6100 DR. PABLO O. TORRE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	Document Code:	DPOTMH-E-57-P01-WI27
	Effective Date:	06-30-2022
	Document Type:	Standard Operating Procedure
	Page Number:	1 of 3
	Department/Section:	Hematology
	Document Title:	MICROSCOPIC EXAM FOR CRYSTALS

PURPOSE:

1. Synovial fluid is microscopically evaluated to recognize the presence and types of crystals.
2. To help diagnose the cause of joint inflammation, pain and/or swelling.

SCOPE:

Applies to all Hematology Section Staff of Laboratory Department of Dr. Pablo O. Torre Memorial Hospital (DPOTMH)

PERSON RESPONSIBLE:

Medical Technologists (Medical Laboratory Scientists), Pathologists, Medical Doctors, Nurses, Medical Trainees, Laboratory Clerks

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

1. Synovial fluid sample must be placed separately in a clear, dry, leak-proof, sterile vials container properly labeled and transported promptly to Laboratory.
2. Microscopic Exam for Crystal shall be released and observe the Releasing of Results Policy. Turn-around time for releasing Microscopic Exam for Crystal result is within 2 hours.

PROCEDURE:

1. The Medical Technologist or Nurse forwards properly the sample and patient's request to the Hematology Section. Medical Technologist then checks sample label, volume and clots prior to analysis. Not properly labeled fluid sample or with coagulum is given or called back to the one endorsed for correct labeling or for another sample submission.
2. The Medical Technologist swirls the container to mix the fluid.
3. Make a direct smear onto the slide having one drop of specimen and spread gently onto the surface making an oval or circular shape and put a cover slip.
4. Observe and look for a blunt or pointed needle-like crystal either intracellular or extracellular.

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MANNER OF REPORTING:

1. Report any crystal seen on direct synovial smear:

If negative: NO MICROSCOPIC CRYSTAL SEEN ON SMEAR

If positive: PRESENCE OF INTRA/EXTRACELLULAR CRYSTALS RESEMBLING MONOSODIUM URATE (if pointed) or CALCIUM PYROPHOSPHATE DIHYDRATE (if blunted) CRYSTALS.

2. The Medical Technologist notes microscopic findings in the request and encodes results in the system.
1. The Medical Technologist/Laboratory Clerk prints out results for outpatients at the reception area upon presentation of the Official Receipt (OR) and results for admitted patients can be viewed and printed out by nurses to its respective stations.
2. Names and results of patient shall be recorded in the Hematology/Miscellaneous logbook.

REFERENCE:

1. Dieppe PA, Calvert (1983) Crystals and Joint Diseases (Chapman and Hall, London)

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APPROVAL:

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	MONICA B. VILLANUEVA, RMT, PhD Laboratory Manager	<i>[Signature]</i>	7-6-2022
	MELANIE ROSE B. ZERRUDO, MD, FPSP Chair, Department of Pathology	<i>[Signature]</i>	7-6-2022
Reviewed:	DENNIS C. ESCALONA, MN, FPSQua Quality Assurance Supervisor	<i>[Signature]</i>	07-06-2022
Recommending Approval:	ROSARIO D. ABARING, MAN, PhD Ancillary Division Officer	<i>[Signature]</i>	07.06.2022
	FREDERIC IVAN L. TING, MD OIC - Total Quality Division	<i>[Signature]</i>	7/8/22
Approved:	GENESIS GOLDI D. GOLINGAN President and CEO	<i>[Signature]</i>	9/11/22

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KEY TASKS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
1. Forwards properly the patient's request to the Hematology Section.	Laboratory Clerks and Nurses
2. Ensures sample is acceptable for testing.	
3. Properly and safely dispose of biohazardous and infectious wastes and materials.	
4. Process and analyze samples. Report result with significant findings.	
5. Processes and analyzes samples.	
6. Releases and validates result thru BIZBOX System.	
7. Records result to Hematology logbooks.	Laboratory Clerks and Nurses
8. Endorses the patient's results to the patient or doctor.	

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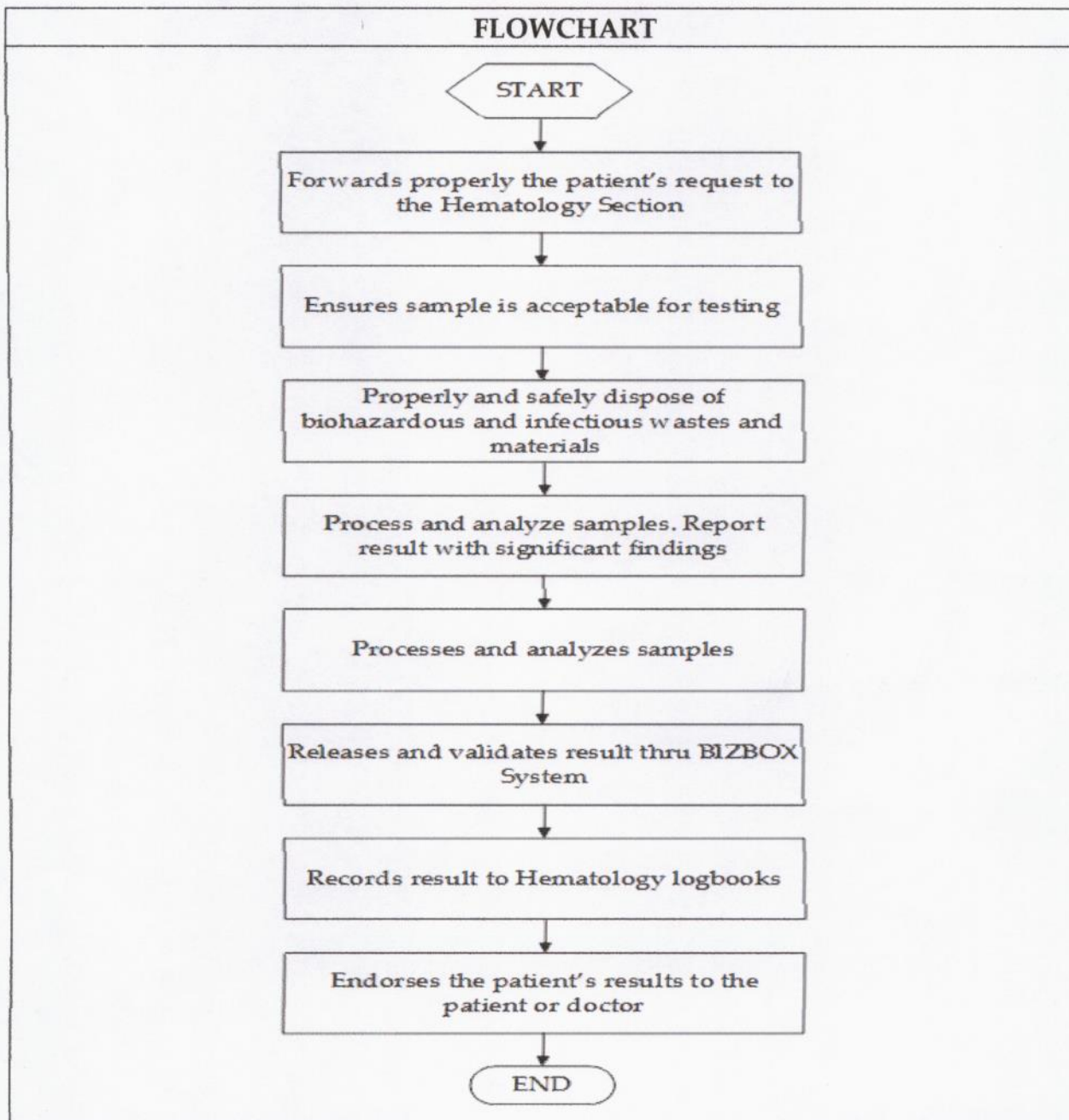


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FLOWCHART



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