

Cellular Pathology Reporting Time Category

Reporting time (adapted for cellular pathology, excludes weekends)	Specimens in this category
Level 1 (immediate – 1 hour)	Frozen sections Intra-operative sentinel lymph node imprints One-stop FNA clinics
Level 2 (1 hr – 6 hrs)	Transplant biopsies Moh's surgery specimens
Level 3 (6 hrs – 24 hrs)	Urgent/same day Bx (without complete IHC) Non-gynae cytology
Level 4 (24 hrs – 72 hrs)	In-patient Bx/non-gynae cytology (with complete IHC) Surgical resection specimens (urgent)
Level 5 (72 hrs – 1 week)	Surgical resection specimens (routine) Gynae cytology
Level 6 (>1 week)	Specialist external referrals Highly complex cases Decalcification specimens Adjunctive molecular testing

Other Urgent Situations (Level 1)

Tissue Bank	Freezing fresh tissue, sampling for research
PM's	Urgent on occasions
MDT's	No flexibility with timing of attendance as fixed by other members of team.

Blood Sciences Reporting Time Category (as proposed 17/06/2010)

Level 1 – 7

1	<2/POCT
2	2 - 4
3	4 - 8
4	8 - 24
	24 – 48 (omitted from original scale)
5	48 - 72
6	1 week
7	Specialist reporting

NOTES

“Hot” / “cold” categorisation is not straightforward in cellular pathology.

Very useful document due soon from RCPATH around this and other parameters for safe ‘modernisation’ of pathology.

Also need to consider IT issues around availability of reports across sites, Trusts and use of NHS number as facilitating identifier.