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| <b>Off-site Muscle Biopsy Advice</b> |            |                 |                               |

## Off-Site Muscle Biopsy Advice

- Contact the Neuropathology Laboratory in advance by telephone (**02896 150216**) or e-mail to the following address: **DL-Neuropath-Lab@belfasttrust.hscni.net**  
This is important to ensure staff are available to receive and process the specimen.  
**A minimum of 24hours notice is preferable.**
- On contacting the laboratory, please provide patient details as well as contact details for whoever is taking the biopsy, to enable contact in the event the biopsy doesn't arrive as expected.
- If the biopsy carries a known infection risk (HIV, Hep C, COVID-19, etc.) this information must be communicated to lab staff, as this will change the way the biopsy can be handled and stored.
- One piece of muscle measuring at least 1cm<sup>3</sup> is required for processing. This will be split into several pieces for analysis and storage upon receipt in the lab.
- Please do not use excessive heat whilst taking the biopsy (cautery, diathermy, etc.). This destroys the enzymes in the biopsy and causes severe artefact which will limit analysis.
- The biopsy should be wrapped in saline-dampened (**NOT WET**) gauze and placed into a dry sterile container.
- It is important that the biopsy arrives with us within 1-2 hours of removal from the patient, before 4pm at the latest. Urgent hospital transport or taxi (depending on local arrangements) is the most efficient way of delivery.
- **Please call the lab to inform us when the biopsy leaves your facility, or if the procedure is cancelled, otherwise we may have to follow up with you.**
- The following page contains a map to assist with delivery of the biopsy. Please note, the Neuropathology lab is **not** located in the Kelvin building. We are located in the Institute of Pathology, the red brick building nearest the Grosvenor Road entrance to the RVH site.

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