Grossing Competency Assessment

GROSSING SCOPE

SOP/reference _____

Staff Member _____ Date _____

Assessor _____ Assessment period ☐ Initial ☐ 6 month ☐ Other: _____

This assessment records the Staff Member's grossing scope and demonstrated competency. Complete the scope selections below, then document observed skills and cases reviewed.

01 Biopsies & Small Specimens

Criteria: Small or fragmented tissue requiring minimal dissection and complete submission or straightforward sampling.

Competency: Handles minute fragments without loss or carryover; measures, describes, triages and selects appropriate submission.

Examples: GI/endometrial biopsies, curettings, skin shaves/punches, polyps, needle cores and tissue fragments.

Competent With:

☐ All specimens in this category
☐ All except
☐ Just the following ☐ N/A

Specimens / Exceptions:

_____

_____

02 Routine / Simple Excisions

Criteria: Uncomplicated excisions with basic orientation and limited margin assessment; no complex dissection or staging.

Competency: Orients, inks relevant margins, sections appropriately, describes abnormalities and selects representative tissue.

Examples: Skin ellipses, cysts, lipomas, tonsils, hemorrhoids, hernia sacs, vas deferens and simple soft-tissue excisions.

Competent With:

☐ All specimens in this category
☐ All except
☐ Just the following ☐ N/A

Specimens / Exceptions:

_____

_____

03 Routine Organ Resections

Criteria: Intact organs requiring systematic examination and routine sampling, without complex oncologic staging.

Competency: Identifies anatomic landmarks, opens or sections correctly, recognizes abnormalities and samples by protocol.

Examples: Appendix, gallbladder, placenta, tube, ovary, simple uterus, spleen and uncomplicated benign organs.

Competent With:

☐ All specimens in this category
☐ All except
☐ Just the following ☐ N/A

Specimens / Exceptions:

_____

_____

04 Complex Benign Resections

Criteria: Advanced orientation, multiple structures or margins, or extensive dissection; staging is not the main objective.

Competency: Independently orients, inks, dissects and samples while preserving anatomy; seeks added sections or consultation.

Examples: Hysterectomy, thyroidectomy, benign kidney/bowel resections, amputations, myomectomy and complex adnexal/salivary resections.

Competent With:

☐ All specimens in this category
☐ All except
☐ Just the following ☐ N/A

Specimens / Exceptions:

_____

_____

05 Oncologic Resections

Criteria: Known or suspected malignancy requiring tumor, margin, lymph-node and staging assessment.

Competency: Orients and dissects; characterizes tumor, invasion and anatomic relationships; submits nodes and staging sections.

Examples: Cancer resections of bowel, stomach, kidney, breast, thyroid, lung, prostate or head/neck; wide melanoma excisions.

Competent With:

☐ All specimens in this category
☐ All except
☐ Just the following ☐ N/A

Specimens / Exceptions:

_____

_____

Grossing Competency Assessment

OBSERVED SKILLS AND CASES REVIEWED

SOP/reference _____

Staff Member _____ Date _____

C Competent R Remediation required O Not assessed N/A Not applicable

	C	R	O	N/A
Identification and triage				
Matches patient, case, part and site / laterality identifiers.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reviews clinical information, specimen condition and handling needs.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Resolves discrepancies and escalates urgent or unexpected findings.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Escalates specimens outside approved scope; consults a technical supervisor when needed.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Orientation and sampling				
Confirms orientation and identifies relevant anatomy and margins.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Describes and measures the specimen and gross findings accurately.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Locates and follows the grossing manual, policies and approved dissection/sampling procedures.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Tissue integrity and traceability				
Prevents tissue loss, drying and cross-contamination.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Labels and reconciles specimens, cassettes and section locations.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Maintains required fixation records and traceable tissue retention.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Documentation and communication				
Produces an accurate gross description and cassette key.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Checks transcription and makes traceable corrections.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Communicates special handling and embedding instructions.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Safety and completion				
Uses required PPE, ventilation and safe instrument handling.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cleans the workstation and handles chemicals and waste safely.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Completes handoff, tracking and required records.	☐	☐	☐	☐

CASES REVIEWED

Category 1		Category 2		Category 3		Category 4		Category 5	
Case #	Note	Case #	Note	Case #	Note	Case #	Note	Case #	Note

Assessment outcome ☐ Competent ☐ Other: _____

Staff Member signature _____ Date _____

Assessor signature _____ Date _____

Medical Director signature _____ Date _____