

**Specimen Collection Manual for Physicians & Institutions  
Outside of The University of Iowa**

*Value Added Services*

The following services are provided to referring laboratories at no additional charge:

**1. Telephone Consultations with Referring Pathologists and Ophthalmologists:**

- a. Our laboratory can assist referring pathologists in advising surgeons about the best technique to achieve an accurate diagnosis.
- b. We will never contact a surgeon without the permission of the pathologist, but we are willing to spend considerable amounts of time with ophthalmologists discussing the clinical implications of their patient's diagnoses.

*Billing Considerations*

1. The patient's insurance is billed unless otherwise requested. The Eye Pathology Laboratory sends a questionnaire, asking the patient for insurance information.
  - a. If the patient is covered by insurance or Medicare, these agencies are then billed directly.
  - b. The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics does accept assignment.
2. This arrangement eliminates almost all billing paperwork for referring laboratories.
3. If you wish, we can arrange for the referring laboratory to be billed directly.

*Fee Schedule*

1. It is difficult for us to publish a fixed fee schedule that would cover every contingency in ophthalmic pathology.
2. Frequently, the number of blocks and types of special stains required on an ophthalmic specimen cannot be anticipated until the specimen is "grossed."
3. We do not perform "routine batteries of special stains" on ocular specimens, to keep the cost to the patient as low as possible.
4. We do encourage referring laboratories to contact us about individual cases so that we may estimate charges based upon a particular specimen and diagnosis.