Memorandum – Anatomic Path #22

To: UNC Health Attending Physicians, Faculty Practice Physicians, Housestaff, Clinical Nurse Coordinators, Department Heads and Supervisors

From: Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD
Medical Director McLendon Clinical Laboratories

Sara E. Wobker, MD, MPH; Director of Anatomic Pathology

Date: July 14, 2026

Subject: Nerve Biopsy Submission Procedure

Effective immediately, all nerve biopsy specimens will be sent to Duke Health for pathologic evaluation. This will include routine H&E microscopy, immunohistochemical staining, special stains and, when indicated, electron microscopy.

Please refer to the policy titled "**Muscle & Nerve Biopsy Testing - Clinicians Request for Muscle & Nerve Specimens to be Sent to Outside Facility**" for guidance on completing the required Duke Health (DUHS/DUMC Clinical Laboratories) Wet Laboratory Request Form. To maintain specimen integrity, all nerve biopsies must be delivered to Anatomic Pathology by 4:00 PM. If this deadline cannot be met, the procedure should be rescheduled. Timely delivery is essential to ensure the specimen remains fresh and allows Duke's laboratory sufficient time for proper processing and diagnostic evaluation. Thank you for your attention to this important change.

Action Needed: Please ensure all relevant clinical staff are informed of this change and adjust ordering practices accordingly.

Questions? Contact Tim Collins at timothy.collins@unchealth.unc.edu