

**PROTOCOL FOR SUBMITTING SPECIMENS FOR HISTOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION OF HANSEN'S DISEASE**  
National Hansen's Disease Programs  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

The following are the requirements needed before sending a biopsy for routine histological evaluation:

1. A biopsy collected with a 4 – 5 mm punch (2 mm if on face) or surgical excision, which should be deep enough to include subcutaneous fat. This depth is important because often the most prominently involved nerves will be found in the upper portion of the subcutaneous fat. As a general rule, the biopsy should be taken entirely within the lesion, preferably from the active margin if there is one.
2. Place in 10% buffered formalin, at least 5 volumes of fixative per volume of tissue. Label container with patient's name and biopsy site.
3. Submit Request Form and a brief clinical history including number of lesions, changes in sensation, previous diagnosis and present clinical impressions.
4. The patient's name, sex, race and social security number if available.
5. The patient's date of birth.
6. The submitting doctor's name and the address where the report is to be sent.
7. Send biopsy in leak-proof container.

**The following specimens may also be submitted for evaluation (listed in order of preference):**

1. Paraffin blocks.
2. Slides of unstained sections - preferably at least 4 slides.
3. Stained slides to include H&E and Fite.

Specimens should be placed in protected mailing containers to prevent damage such as screw-cap cardboard cylinders or padded mailing envelopes.

**Specimens are then sent to:**

National Hansen's Disease Programs  
Clinical Lab  
1770 Physicians Park Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70816  
Att: George Reed or Steve Keas

