## Veterinary pathology audit template

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| Date of completion  | (To be inserted when completed) |
| Name of lead author/participants | (To be inserted) |
| Specialty | Veterinary pathology |
| Title | An audit of the post-mortem examination of animals having received chemotherapeutic or radioactive agents |
| Background | Advances in both veterinary and human oncology has led to an increase in the use of chemotherapeutic and radioactive agents to combat disease in animals. While this has resulted in increased survival and quality of life for those treated, these agents can pose a risk to those who undertake post-mortem examination. That risk may be related directly to the health of the practitioner or may be more amorphous and relate to reputational risk around how to dispose of the materials or to what relevant regulations must be followed. The Royal College of Pathologist’s guidelines are usually intended to benefit the health of patients and public (and animal) health. *G192 Guidelines on veterinary necropsy practice: Post-mortem examination of animals having received chemotherapeutic or radioactive agents* is unusual in that it is intended to protect the health of the pathologists themselves.1It is recognised that most veterinary pathologists will not regularly encounter cadavers or tissues that may contain residues of hazardous agents. Therefore, the opportunity for audit is restricted and relies on more generalised criteria based on the quality of training, record keeping and use of PPE and dose monitoring equipment. |
| Aim & objectives | This audit template is a tool toverify that an appropriate risk assessment has been carried out and is available to all relevant staffensure that submissions are supported by documentation indicating the potential presence or absence of hazardous agents in submitted materialconfirm that staff in contact with cadavers or tissues have received appropriate training before potential exposure.confirm that appropriate PPE and suitable dosemeters (calibrated) are available and used.confirm that equipment and consumables suitable for the safe collection and disposal of tissues and spillages are readily available and in use. verify that a radiation protection advisor (RPA) has been appointed and is immediately available for advice. |
| Standards & criteria | **Criteria range:** 100% or, if not achieved, there is documentation in the case notes that explains the variance.Risk assessment(s) covers all relevant material received.Submission documentation covers all relevant material received.All staff received training consistent with the risk assessment.Appropriate PPE and suitable dosemeters (calibrated).Suitable equipment and consumables for the safe collection and disposal of tissues and spillages.A qualified RPA competent in this area has been appointed.The agreed standards: Risk assessment(s) written to a standard consistent with Health and Safety Executive guidance.2,3Submission documentation includes section explicitly confirming the potential presence or absence of hazardous agents in submitted material.Training judged to be adequate to the potential risks.PPE and dosemeters (calibrated) consistent with current safety standards and adequate for the potential hazards.Evidence that suitable equipment and consumables for the safe collection and disposal of tissues and spillages is available and used.Formal contract with RPA and evidence of engagement. |
| Method | **Evidence to be examined:** Documentary and physical evidence of compliance with the criteria and standards listed above should be verified on the date of the inspection. An appropriate number of staff should be interviewed to confirm adequate training and awareness.All submission documents within the time-period from … to … should be examined to confirm the explicit confirmation of the presence or absence of hazardous material in the submitted specimen.**Data to be collected on proforma (see below).** |
| Results | (To be completed by the author)The results of this audit show the following compliance with the standards.

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|  | % compliance |
| Risk assessments adequate |  |
| Submission documents adequate |  |
| Documentary evidence of training  |  |
| Staff interviews confirm training and understanding of hazards |  |
| Equipment and consumables for the safe collection and disposal of tissues and spillages are available and used |  |
| PPE and dosimeters adequate and used |  |
| Contract with RPA |  |

**Commentary:** |
| Conclusion | (To be completed by the author) |
| Recommend-ations for improvement | Present the result with recommendations, actions and responsibilities for action and a timescale for implementation. Assign a person(s) responsible to do the work within a timeframe.**Some suggestions:**highlight areas of practice that are differentpresent findings. |
| Action plan | (To be completed by the author – see attached action plan proforma) |
| Re-audit date | (To be completed by the author) |
| References | 1. Health and Safety Executive. *Managing risks and risk assessment at work*. London, UK:Health and Safety Executive, 2023. Available at: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/risk-assessment-template-and-examples.htm>
2. Health and Safety Executive. *Radiation protection advisors*.London, UK: Health and Safety Executive, 2021. Available at: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/radiation/rpnews/rpa.htm>
3. MacMillan AP, La Ragione R, Firth M. *G192:* *Guidelines on veterinary necropsy practice: Post-mortem examination of animals having received chemotherapeutic or radioactive agents*. London, UK: The Royal College of Pathologists, 2023. Available at: <https://www.rcpath.org/profession/guidelines/specialty-specific-publications.html>
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| **Audit action plan** An audit of the post-mortem examination of animals having received chemotherapeutic or radioactive agents |
| Audit recommendation | Objective | Action | Timescale | Barriers and constraints | Outcome | Monitoring |
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