**Policy: Post-Liver Transplant Biopsy Management Protocol for the Outpatient Transplant Center**  
  
**Statement: I. Activation date**: 12/10/2007  
**II. Affected Department**: Transplant Outpatient Clinic, Transplant Infusion Center, Transplant Hepatology and Transplant Liver Surgery Departments  
**III. Vision Strategy**: Patient Care  
**IV. Policy Statement:** The Emory Transplant Center will perform biopsy procedures in keeping with the standard of care from current scientific, evidence based medicine practices.  
**V. Basis:** Liver biopsy is the standard of care for the evaluation of elevated liver enzymes and to stage and grade disease in patients who have an established diagnosis of liver disease and the sequelae of post liver transplant.  
  
**Scope/Procedure:**  
  
**VI. Procedure**:

**A.** The provider has determined the need for a scheduled outpatient biopsy. He/She will communicate this to the outpatient post transplant   
liver coordinator.   
  
**B.** The Transplant coordinator will prepare the order set and place the orders in the Outpatient Transplant Clinic sleeve for the designated   
patient by the evening prior to arrival.  
  
**C.** The provider will assess that a full physical exam has been completed within one month of the scheduled procedure or he/she will perform   
during the current visit.  
**D**. The provider will confirm that comprehensive H&P is present in the chart within the last 12 months including evaluation of the patient’s   
medical problems and assessment of the stability of these problems.  
  
**E.** The previous listed records are available to the Outpatient Transplant Infusion (OTC) area.  
  
**F.** The MD/APRN/ PA will obtain informed consent from the patient and initiate a call to order.   
**G.** Ultrasound imaging will be used per provider preference to mark biopsy site. The patient will be instructed to exhale and hold his/her   
breath as the specimen is aspirated.  
  
**H.** The provider will obtain a 3 cm specimen using a 16 gauge full core biopsy instrument obtained by no more than two passes and place in   
10% buffered formalin solution ( *under certain circumstances a second biopsy will need to be performed for quantitative iron and*   
*copper as well as special strains of molecular testing).*   
**I.** The provider will hold pressure over the puncture site for 2 minutes and apply a pressure dressing.   
**J.** Patient will be instructed to lay on his/her right side for the next hour.  
  
**K.** Nursing will obtain a first set of vital signs including pain score within 2 minutes of completed procedure.  
  
**L.** The specimen will be placed in formalin 30ml container labeled with the address o graph plate label along with the appropriate pathology   
request form and the courier will be called to transport the specimen to the pathology lab.  
  
  
Approved by: Liver Transplant Leadership Group  
  
  
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Stuart J. Knechtle, M.D.  
Chair, Liver Transplant Leadership Group  
Director, Liver Transplant Program  
  
  
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James Spivey, MD  
Medical Director, Liver Transplant Program  
  
Approved Date: 1/24/2011, 12/2012, 6/24/14