Standard Trimming Method

- The standard trimming method used for routine sections is the “Cross Method” (i.e. ½’s and ¼’s):
- We will palpate the specimen to determine where the mass/lesion comes closest to the surgical margins
- **Half-section [1/2]:**
  - We will bisect the specimen through the mass/lesion so the section extends through the center of the mass.
  - We then trim a 2-6 mm full thickness plane/slab/piece from this cut surface (this piece should demonstrate a cross section of the mass and the associated margins, see figures 1 and 2a)
- **Quarter sections [1/4’s]:**
  - We will bisect each/both subsequent specimens (halves of the mass that have resulted from the cross section) through the mass/lesion through along the longest axis of the tissue;
  - Finally we trim a 2-6 mm full thickness plane/slab/piece from this cut surface (these pieces should demonstrate the mass in a different plane, and the association of the mass with surrounding normal long axis tissue margins (when/where available), see figures 1 and 2b)

Figure 1: Dorsal view

Inked Margin Evaluation

1. Evaluation of additional margins will only be performed following written or oral request
2. There are 3 options for how a specimen may be submitted for margin evaluation:
   a) **Section is inked on all margins** – further process is described under margin evaluation
   b) **Section has not been inked** – we will ink section and proceed as above
   c) **Some margins have been inked** – we process only inked margins
3. We always evaluate the quality of the ink and re-ink if original ink is fading
Figure 2a: Lateral view of half section

![Mass](Mass)

Figure 2b: Lateral view of 2 quarter sections

![Mass](Mass)

Figure 3: Lateral view of margin slides for larger sections

![Mass](Mass)