

Frequently Asked Questions

- [Q: What are pathologists?](#)

A: The pathologist is an M.D. or D.O. Pathology is divided into two major specialties, anatomic and clinical pathology. Anatomic pathology deals with the tissue diagnosis. Clinical pathology deals with the laboratory test diagnosis. Most private practice pathologists are board certified in both specialties (double board certification). The pathologist is often called upon to immediately examine surgical specimens in the operating room. This may range from opening a uterus to identify the disease process, to opening a segment of intestine to ensure that the surgeon has taken adequate margins. Depending upon the case, a frozen section may be performed. This is a rapid diagnosis where a small sample of the specimen is chosen and rapidly frozen. This frozen tissue is then cut into very thin sections (thinner than the width of this line "I"), placed upon a microscope slide, and stained with specialized solutions. The slide is then reviewed under the microscope and a diagnosis is rendered.

- [Q: Why did I get a bill from a doctor I did not see?](#)

A: We are billing for the examination of your pathology specimen, pap smear or nuclear medicine scan. These are specimens such as tissue biopsies, blood specimens and scans collected at your physician's office and/or hospital.