

Understanding Your Biopsy Billing

Your biopsy specimen has been sent to the Forefront Dermatology laboratory for evaluation and diagnosis.

Who diagnoses my biopsy?

A specialized physician called a **dermatopathologist** examines your skin under the microscope in our laboratory and makes a diagnosis. Interpreting skin specimens can be complicated and requires a specialized physician trained in skin disease.

In order for the dermatopathologist to provide a diagnosis, your biopsy must first undergo a series of steps performed by both highly-trained lab technicians and state-of-the-art machines in order to create a glass slide to be viewed under the microscope.

Why is my biopsy sent to the Forefront Laboratory?

Your local dermatologist chose the Forefront laboratory given the dermatopathologist expertise, the strong supporting technical team, and the state-of-the-art lab equipment. In addition, your dermatologist has direct access to the Forefront laboratory team which allows them to provide additional information to aid in your diagnosis and discuss your specific results prior to communicating to you.

Finally, the Forefront dermatopathologists have access to your electronic medical record given they are part of Forefront Dermatology. In many cases, your prior history can be critical to providing the best possible diagnosis. **Forefront is the only laboratory that would have access to your electronic medical record.**

Charges on Your Bill

1. Removing the Tissue

Your local dermatologist or other provider charges for evaluation and removal of the tissue to be examined.

2. Lab Charges

• **Technical Component** (Shown as LAB TC)

The preparation of your tissue on a slide for evaluation is called the technical component. You will see the name of our Laboratory Medical Director, **Kelli A. Hutchens, MD** on your billing statement. Dr. Hutchens oversees the process to ensure the quality and integrity of the specimen.

• **Professional Component** (Shown as LAB PC)

The evaluation and diagnosis of your tissue by the **dermatopathologist** is called the professional component.

• **Global Charge** (Shown as LAB GBL)

A global charge includes both the professional and technical components in a single charge.

Dermatopathologist names you may see on your bill for the professional component:

- Kelli Hutchens, MD
- Ling Xia, MD
- Will Patino, MD
- John Pujals, MD
- Brent Weed, MD
- Douglas Hansen, MD
- Eric Hanson, MD
- K. Mireille Chae, MD
- Solomon Shockman, MD
- John Pelachyk, MD



Additional Charges or Bills

On occasion, additional charges may occur if the **dermatopathologist** must order additional in-house tests to render a final diagnosis. In certain instances, the dermatopathologist may seek a second opinion from an outside lab on your case. We will notify you in this event.

Should you have any questions please contact our billing department toll-free at 1-866-630-9882.