

Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the Health Sciences Association of Alberta (HSAA)

This classification specification identifies representative duties and responsibilities, and is intended to assist in the determination of the appropriate classification level within each discipline. Some duties and responsibilities may overlap between class levels. The classification specification is not intended to provide an exhaustive list of all duties performed.

Classification Title: **Tissue Specialist II**

Date Updated: **July 21, 2010**

Job Summary:

The Tissue Specialist II is the working level responsible for the recovery, processing, preservation and distribution of specialized tissue (bones, tendons, eyes, skin, hearts for valves, living-donor tissues, etc) for transplant.

In addition, the Tissue Specialist II may be responsible for laboratory procedures related to the processing of human pancreata into transplantable islets.

Key Responsibilities and Typical Duties:

In addition to the duties of the Tissue Specialist I, the Tissue Specialist II:

Core Duties

- Consults with donor families and obtains consent for tissue donation including medical questionnaire.
- Screens donor(s) to determine donor acceptability and tissue/organ safety.
- Packages and stores tissue for transport, processing and long term storage in accordance with standard operation procedures.
- Documents and maintains accurate extensive batch records of all tissue/islet donation and processing activities including inventory, distribution and recipient tracking.
- Recovers, processes, evaluates and preserves specialized tissue/islets for transplantation
- Performs laboratory procedures in the isolation of islets for transplantation from donated human pancreata.
- Performs and analyzes assays in the assessment of final islet preparation for suitability for transplantation.
- Coordinates the tissue/islet transplantation process with surgeons and nurses.

Other Related Duties

- Participates in improving and sustaining tissue donation levels.
- Participates and supports quality control reviews and activities.
- Participates in the development and presentation of professional and public education to promote organ and tissue donation and transplantation.
- May prepare and conduct educational sessions for staff.
- Participates in the development, review and revision of standard operating procedures within the area.
- Participates in and/or contributes to the development and provision of standardized training and education to new staff and/or stakeholders with regard to procedures and operational activities.

Leadership

- Provides collegial/functional guidance to staff particularly during tissue recovery, processing and isolation procedures.

Decision-Making

- Consults with organ procurement organizations and the transplanting surgeon to assess donor and tissue/organ suitability for process and transplant.
- Ensures that donor consent is received and medical records indicate suitable tissue/islet in order to proceed with recovery.
- Assesses final islet preparation for suitability for transplantation.
- Coordinates tissue recovery procedures during a donor case and leads tissue/islet processing activities during a processing run.
- Liaises with other departments and organizations to coordinate tissue recovery activities.

Knowledge:

Education

- Diploma from a Health Sciences program or related field required.
- An equivalent level of education and experience may be considered.

Registration Requirements

- Not Applicable.
- Certification as a Tissue Specialist, Eye Bank Technician or equivalent by a recognized Canadian or American Organization is preferred.

Working Conditions:

Physical Demands

- Walking, bending, lifting and long periods of standing required.
- High degree of prolonged visual attention/concentration required.
- Regularly required to perform repetitive movements.

Work Environment

- Exposure to blood, body fluids, equipment, sharp instruments and bio-hazardous material.
- Requires protective clothing.
- May be exposed to cold temperatures.
- May be required to perform work in multiple locations such as operating rooms, morgues, hospital unit and/or the Medical Examiner's Office.