



Renovation of Histopathology Laboratory to support ACGME and workflow improvement

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Value Created:

- Increased useable work areas by making use of dead space such as the corridor and re-partitioning of existing areas to manage the workload and the residency program.
 - Improved safety for lab personnel, trainees, staff from other departments and visitors.
- Improved workflow and efficiency in specimen handling which benefits the patients.

Methodology

- 1) The renovation was to be carried out concurrently with on-going day-to-day laboratory operation due to the very limited laboratory space. To achieve this, the laboratory worked with engineers from Facility Management to identify key phases of renovation, without disrupting the turnaround-time of laboratory reporting for patients and to maintain staff safety.
- 2) The team did on-site surveillance and assessment, and found that some of the corridor space and the under utilised autopsy room could be better utilized. An additional space gain of 74 m² with current 125 m² for the following facilities:

A typical busy day with eight staff working in a congested space for various routine lab activities, such as specimen grossing, frozen section grossing, autopsy procedure, and specimen reception



Spacious trimming area, with additional four trimming tables without compromising the priority need for frozen section and autopsy



A dedicated FS grossing table and workflow-oriented positioning of equipment, making FS process from grossing to reporting smooth



A new receiving counter created, porters would not be able to see gross specimens and autopsy



An isolated autopsy suite is created to keep the work out of view from visitors and porters

Conclusion

- 1) The project enabled more pathology residents to learn their respective speciality from the paediatric and gynaecological pathologists, and also improved the operational needs of the laboratory.
- 2) Staff related issues were overcome, which increased their confidence in working in the lab. Staff cooperation is greatly important during the renovation.