

March 4, 2023

[REDACTED]
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

This letter is to notify you of an unexpected situation involving your pathology specimen. Providence St Joseph Hospital (Hospital) was notified by the courier company that the Hospital contracts with that one of their drivers was involved in a motor vehicle accident on February 24, 2023. The driver was taken to the nearest hospital and the accident was a result of poor road conditions due to the weather. The courier vehicle is in a ravine, where it remains to date. Since the accident, the road remains closed, and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and towing companies have not been able to access the vehicle.

We believe your pathology specimen may be located in the courier vehicle at the bottom of the ravine. If your specimen was preserved in formalin and the container is intact, it is possible, once the vehicle is rescued, the Hospital can perform the ordered testing. Formalin does not freeze and is used to preserve pathology specimens.

We have been in contact with the CHP, and they agreed to notify us when the vehicle is retrieved. We have also notified your provider who can better advise you on recommended next steps in your medical care.

It is unfortunate that the accident occurred, and your specimen may be impacted. We will continue to communicate updates with you as we hear from the CHP. Once the vehicle has been retrieved and the Hospital determines that your specimen was involved, we will notify you and your provider.

If you have any further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at (707) 445-8121, Ext. 5811.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

TRACI OBER
AREA RISK MANAGER
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