



## The Laboratory's Role

### What is the laboratory's role in implementing the know error® system?

The **know error® system** complements your workflow while protecting the laboratory across all stages of the diagnostic testing cycle. It works by verifying patient identity at the molecular level via a **DNA Specimen Provenance Assay (DSPA) test**, which compares the DNA profiles of a patient's reference sample (taken via cheek swab at the time of the biopsy) and positive tissue sample(s). This requires minimal disruption to your standard laboratory process.

- Your role in implementation will simply be to oversee cutting and sending of the appropriate tissue scrolls for DSPA testing.



When a positive diagnosis is rendered, two 4-micron slices should be cut from the appropriate paraffin block(s) and sent to the DNA lab using the supplied transport vials. In some cases, unstained slides may be sent instead.

### Why is this necessary?

The diagnostic testing cycle for cancer involves several medical professionals and nearly 18 complex steps, some of which are beyond your control as a pathologist. Undetected tissue transposition or contamination occurring at any step in the process could result in a cancer diagnosis being assigned to the wrong patient. When this happens, the patient with the false-positive diagnosis would receive unnecessary treatment, while the patient with the false-negative diagnosis would not receive the care she needs in a timely manner.

The **know error® system** allows physicians to complete the diagnostic testing cycle for cancer by confirming that surgical biopsy samples being evaluated belong exclusively to the patient being diagnosed. This allows both you and the treating physician to move forward confidently with the diagnosis and corresponding treatment options based on the patient's lab results.

### Need more information?

If one of your clients has requested the **know error® system** and you have questions or require further assistance with implementation, please feel free to contact us at **888-924-6779, option 2**. You can also consult the resources below for more detailed information on biopsy misidentification and the **know error® system**.



[Pathology Brochure – The Laboratory's Role | PDF \(1.1MB\)](#)



[Incidence of Errors in the Diagnostic Testing Cycle | PDF \(135KB\)](#)



[Know Error DNA Specimen Provenance Assignment \(DSPA\) Process | PDF \(168KB\)](#)



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