

Specimen Requirements

This document serves as a general reference guide for specimen requirements. Test-specific requirements may differ, please call 480-478-8000 for additional questions or clarification.



TESTS REQUESTED*—ALL Specimens must be labeled with two forms of patient identification and placed in a BIOHAZARD bag for submission.

| Specimen Type | Routine Histology/Cytology | Flow Immuno-phenotyping* | Bone Marrow Morphology | Cytogenetics/FISH | Storage & Transportation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Peripheral Blood | | Green-top: 3-7 mL Lavender-top Include copy of most recent CBC results. | Lavender-top: 3-5 mL or 2 peripheral blood smears + copy of most recent CBC results (required) | Green-top: 5-10 mL | Room temperature, transport with cold pack ² |
| Bone Marrow Biopsy Core and/ or Clot (Formalin) | Bone Marrow Core and Clot (or particle pellet) | | | | Room temperature, transport with cold pack ² |
| Fresh Bone Marrow Core Biopsy | | RPMI 1-2 cm (length) Immerse core in approx 10 mL of RPMI. | 1-2 cm (length) in 10% formaldehyde (place formalin cup in bag and seal) | RPMI 1-2 cm (length) Immerse core in approx 10 mL of RPMI. | Room temperature, transport with cold pack ² |
| Bone Marrow Aspirate | | Green-top or Lavender-top: 2-3 mL Include copy of most recent CBC results. | 5-10 bone marrow smears OR Lavender-top tube containing bone marrow aspirate | Green-top: 2-3 mL | Room temperature, transport with cold pack ² |
| Fine Needle Aspirate (FNA) | Prepared slides (air dried or fixed with spray or alcohol immersion). Submit residual (or entire) specimen in Cytolyt. | RPMI Immerse sample in approx 10 mL of RPMI | | RPMI Immerse sample in approx 10 mL of RPMI | Room temperature, transport with cold pack ² |
| Tissue Biopsy | 10% Formalin; Immerse sample in approx 10x volume of the specimen If skin for direct immunofluorescence, submit in Michel's Medium If breast tissue is submitted, immersion in formalin MUST be within 1 hr from time of biopsy. If cytology is ordered , send fresh or in Cytolyt (formalin is not acceptable for cytology) | RPMI Immerse sample in approx 10x volume of the specimen | | RPMI Immerse sample in approx 10x volume of the specimen | Room temperature, transport with cold pack ² |
| Formalin-Fixed Paraffin-Embedded Block (FFPE) | | | | | Room temperature, transport with cold pack ² |
| Unstained Slides from FFPE Block | Precut charged slides in 4 micron sections; minimum 2 slides per antibody | | | | Room temperature, transport with cold pack ² |
| Cerebral Spinal Fluid (CSF) | Submit CSP in sterile container | Sterile container | | Sterile container | Room temperature, transport with cold pack ² |
| Body Fluids | Sterile container | Sterile container, submit specimen within 24 hrs. to optimize viability | | Sterile container, submit specimen within 24 hrs. to optimize viability | Room temperature, transport with cold pack ² |

Green-top³ = Sodium heparin

Lavender-top = EDTA

RPMI = Pink color culture media¹

*Clin-Path Diagnostics makes every attempt to perform the requested testing. If testing cannot be performed, the client will be contacted.

1. Caution: Do not use RPMI when it turns cloudy, yellow or is at or beyond the expiration date; use only pink/orange color RPMI. McCoy's Medium can also be substituted for RPMI.
2. Be sure cold pack is not in direct contact with the specimen during transport.
3. Sodium heparin is required; lithium heparin unacceptable.