

Specimen Requirements -- Pathology Laboratory Associates

* NOTE: All specimens are transported by courier at ambient (room) temperature with the exception of muscle, nerve and renal biopsies. Please see these sections for more information.

Specimen Type by Test Order	TAT - In Lab to Verify	Preferred Volume	Minimum Volume	Container Type	Preservative	Storage Temperature	Special Instructions
Cytology							
BAL	2 - 5 days	20 - 40 mL		Luki tube	Fresh - none	Refrigerate	
Bronchial Wash	2 - 5 days	20 - 40 mL		Luki tube	Fresh - none	Refrigerate	
Bronchial Brush	2 - 5 days	1 brush OR slides from a brush		Sterile Cup and/or slide holder	CytoStat Red - brush 95% alcohol/spray fixative - slides	Room Temperature	Brush - Place brush in small container and cover with CytoStat Red. Slides - Place slides in slide holder and cover with 95% alcohol OR spray slides with a fixative and send in a dry slide container
Breast Fluid	2 - 5 days	5 - 10 mL	4 mL	Sterile cup or syringe	Fresh - none	Refrigerate	
Cerebral Spinal Fluid (CSF)	2 - 5 days	5 - 10 mL	4 mL	CSF screw top tubes	Fresh - none	Refrigerate	If Flow Cytometry is also ordered, please see Flow section below
Ascites Fluid	2 - 5 days	up to 1L	50 mL	Sterile cup or syringe	Fresh - none	Refrigerate	
Pericardial Fluid	2 - 5 days	5 - 10 mL	4 mL	Sterile cup or syringe	Fresh - none	Refrigerate	
Pleural/ Thoracentesis Fluid	2 - 5 days	up to 1L	50 mL	Sterile cup or syringe	Fresh - none	Refrigerate	
Sputum	2 - 5 days	4 - 10 mL		Sterile cup	Fresh - none	Refrigerate	
Urine	2 - 5 days		50 mL	Sterile cup	Fresh - none	Refrigerate	
Bladder Wash	2 - 5 days		50 mL	Sterile cup	Fresh - none	Refrigerate	
Ureter Wash	2 - 5 days		50 mL	Sterile cup	Fresh - none	Refrigerate	
Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA)	2 - 5 days	5 - 10 mL		Sterile cup	Fresh - none	Refrigerate	
Thyroid Aspirate	2 - 5 days	5 - 10 mL		Fine Needle Kit and air dried smears	CytoStat Red	Room Temperature	Place slides in 95% alcohol, and air dry slides by placing in slide container
PAP - can be ordered alone or with reflexes for HPV	4 - 7 days	20 mL	20 mL	ThinPrep Vial	PreservCyt Solution	Room Temperature	Do not leave collection device in vial
Important Notes - Cytology							
** If a shared specimen (has clinical laboratory orders), aliquot the minimum for other testing and send UNSPUN specimens for Cytology in their original collection containers. Fluid from pour off is unacceptable for testing.							
** Requirements for all Cytology specimens to be documented on the PLA Requisition accompanying the sample:							
- total volume of fluid collected, - laterality (left, right, anterior, posterior, etc), - procedure performed to collect specimen (thoracentesis, bladder wash, chest tube insertion, etc)							
Histology							
Skin Biopsies - Direct Immunofluorescence (DIF)	2 - 5 days	2-4mm		Plastic container for size of specimen	Michel's medium	Room Temperature	
Surgical specimens, biopsies, resections, etc	2 - 5 days	Varies		Plastic container for size of specimen	10% Buffered Formalin	Room Temperature	Formalin to specimen volume 10:1
Cytogenetics on fetal and placental tissue	14 days	Not specified	Not specified	Plastic container for size of specimen	RPMI medium	Refrigerate	Store RPMI medium in refrigerator. If color changes from light orange to purple-blue, discard and get fresh RPMI. ABSOLUTELY NO FORMALIN
Kidney biopsies for EM and immunofluorescence	7-14 days	Not specified; Large enough to be split into 3 containers		Sterile cups	Phosphate transport buffer or trisect specimen 2 - in formalin 1 in Michel's Media	Room Temperature	Contact PLA prior to collection. Email PLA Gross Room at histologygrossroom@plapath.com to notify team that a specimen will be arriving. Place the container with biopsies in transport buffer on WET ice. Call for STAT courier pick up. Specimen must be received within 2 hours of collection. Specimen separation - place a sample into each individual cups
Muscle and Nerve biopsies	up to 30 days	1.5x 1.0cm	1.5 x 1.0cm	Sterile cup	Fresh on saline soaked sponge	Dry ice	Contact PLA prior to collection. Whole specimen wrapped in gauze dampened saline, in container of DRY ICE. STAT Courier needed
Important Notes - Histology							
** If tissue is a shared specimen (has clinical laboratory orders), please separate into 2 containers if possible. If unable to, please place "Shared Specimen" label where it can be easily seen.							
Flow Cytometry *minimum volume is dependent on cellularity							
Tissue	1 - 4 days	≥100 mg or ≥1.0 cm	100 mg or 1.0 cm	Small container	Fresh or RPMI media	Refrigerate	Store RPMI media in refrigerator. If color changes from light orange to pink, discard and get fresh RPMI. Check expiration date, discard if expired.
BAL	1 - 4 days	2.0 mL	0.5 mL	sterile container or lavender top tube	RPMI or EDTA	Refrigerate	Store RPMI media in refrigerator. If color changes from light orange to pink, discard and get fresh RPMI. Check expiration date, discard if expired.
Whole Blood	1 - 4 days	3 mL	1.0 mL	Lavender top tube	EDTA	Room Temperature	DO NOT REFRIGERATE
CSF	1 - 4 days	1.5 mL	1.0 mL	Sterile tube	none	Refrigerate	Minimum WBC is 100 cmm. Cell counts and Cytology are performed before Flow testing is performed.
Bone Marrow	2 - 4 days	3 mL aspirate	1.0 mL	Lavender top tube	EDTA	Transport at room temp; store in refrigerator	
Molecular							
JAK2 Mutation	2-7 days	2 mL whole blood	1.0 mL	Lavender top tube	Unopened EDTA tube	Room Temperature	Do not use EDTA tube that has been sampled by an instrument or shared with any other testing. Do not centrifuge.
Bone Marrow Complete Exam							
Aspirate, tubes	2-4 days	3 mL aspirate		Blue top tube	Sodium citrate	Room Temperature	See PLA website form -- Bone Marrow Collection Guide
Slides -- aspirate or core touch preps	2-4 days	Varies		Glass slides in slide holder	N/A	Room Temperature	
Biopsy	2-4 days	1 undivided core		Plastic container for size of specimen	10% Buffered Formalin	Room Temperature	
Aspirate, clot	2-4 days	1.0 mL		Plastic container for size of specimen	10% Buffered Formalin	Room Temperature	
CBC with peripheral blood smear	24 hours	3 mL whole blood	1.0 mL	Lavender top tube + slides	EDTA	Room Temperature	Sent to LabCorp of Oklahoma for testing
Important Notes - Bone Marrow							
** Bone Marrow samples may have special testing requirements, including chromosomal analysis, myloid NGS and flow cytometry testing. TAT will vary depending on the additional testing needed.							
Shared Specimens with Clinical Laboratory		LabCorp test directory -- https://www.labcatalog.net/search				LabCorp OK -- (918) 744-2500	

This may include microbiology, chemistry, cell counts, and molecular testing. Please refer to LabCorp website or call for specific collection, temperature and testing requirements.

See PLA website form -- Commonly Shared Specimens