

SPECIMEN COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

Flow Cytometry

Flow Cytometry, FISH, and Cytogenetics

Peripheral Blood

- One full 5mL (lavender top) EDTA tube is preferred, or one full 5mL (green top) sodium heparin tube is acceptable.
- Send to lab as soon as possible at room temperature.

Bone Marrow

- 3-5 mL bone marrow immediately placed into a sodium heparin (green top) or EDTA (lavender top) tube.
- In case of "dry tap" a piece of bone marrow core may be submitted according to the guidelines below for solid tissue submission.
- Send to lab as soon as possible at room temperature.

Solid Tissue (including lymph nodes)

- Please submit as much tissue as possible, avoiding any necrotic foci.
- Tissue should be cut into small 2-3 millimeter pieces and placed in RPMI preparation provided by laboratory.
- Sterile saline may be used if no RPMI is available.
- Avoid fixatives
- Send to lab as soon as possible at room temperature.

CSF

- Because CSF generally has a very low protein and very few nutrients to support cellular integrity, add RPMI as soon as possible in about a 1:1 ratio either by pouring out some of the RPMI in the provided tube and adding the CSF aseptically, or, by adding the RPMI from the provided tube into the original specimen container. Make note that RPMI was added.

Body Fluid

- Submit as much fluid as possible in RPMI. The RPMI/fluid ratio is not critical. Always note if RPMI has been added to an original collection container.

PCR

Peripheral Blood

- EDTA (lavender top) whole blood 14mL (2 tubes) preferred
- RNA based PCR test **requires a very fresh** sample because RNA degrades much faster than DNA - **send to laboratory within 48 hours.**

Bone Marrow

- 0.5 cc marrow in an EDTA (lavender top) tube
- RNA based PCR test **requires a very fresh** sample because RNA degrades much faster than DNA - **send to laboratory within 48 hours.**