

## SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND HANDLING GUIDE

### Purpose of Specimen Collection and Handling Guide

Proper specimen collection and handling are essential parts of obtaining an accurate and timely laboratory test result. The purpose of this guide is to describe the proper procedure for specimen collection, labeling, storage, and shipping.

### Specimen Identification and Labeling Requirements

#### **Labeling Requirements:**

Label all primary specimen containers with at least two patient-specific identifiers.

- Acceptable identifiers include, but are not limited to: patient name, date of birth, hospital number, social security number, requisition number, accession number, or unique random number. A hospital room number is not an appropriate patient identifier.
- Label all specimens in the presence of the patient.
- Positive identification is the responsibility of the person collecting the sample.

#### **Specimen Identification:**

Submit a completed order or requisition form with all specimens. Completed orders or requisition forms should contain the following information:

- Full name of patient
- Secondary unique identifier
- Date of Birth
- Sex of Patient
- Referring physician
- Facility name and address
- Date and time of specimen collection
- Specimen type
- Referring diagnoses
- ICD 10 Code
- Appropriate related patient history
- Test requested

### Patient Preparation

Many tests require proper patient preparation before collection to ensure a quality specimen for testing. Refer to collection facility's procedures for patient preparation requirements.

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### Specimen Collection and Storage Requirements for Chromosome Analysis, FISH, ICP, and Microarray

#### **Amniotic Fluid:**

- Volume: 10 – 20 ml; discard the first ml of fluid or use for other testing
- Container: Sterile 15 mL centrifuge tube or container
- Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20 to 22°C (68 - 72°F) or refrigerated temperature

#### **Bone Core:**

- Volume: NA
- Container: Sodium Heparin vacutainer or a sterile tube containing sterile transport media
  - Invert tube 4 – 8 times to prevent formation of clots
- Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20 to 22°C (68 - 72°F) or refrigerated temperature, 2 - 8°C (35.6 – 46.4°F).

#### **Bone Marrow:**

- **Adults**
  - Volume: 2 – 5 ml of bone marrow; from the first or, at least, the second tap
  - Container: Sodium Heparin vacutainer
    - Do Not Use Lithium Heparin
    - Invert tube 4 – 8 time to prevent clots
  - Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20 to 22°C (68 - 72°F)
    - Do Not Freeze Specimen
- **Children**
  - Volume: 1 – 5 ml of bone marrow; from the first or, at least, the second tap
  - Container: Sodium Heparin vacutainer
    - Do Not Use Lithium Heparin;
    - Invert tube 4 – 8 times to prevent clots
  - Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20 - 22°C (68 – 72 °F)
    - Do Not Freeze Specimen

#### **Buccal Swab:**

- Volume: Entire Swab (2 – If performing Microarray testing)
- Container: Original collection tube, dry.
- Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20-22°C (68-72°F) or refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C (35.6-46.6°F)
  - Do Not Freeze

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### ***Chorionic Villi:***

- Volume: 10-20 mg of chorionic villi
- Container: 15 ml sterile centrifuge tube containing sterile transport media
  - Sterile transport media provided by GAI upon request, sterile media such as RPMI, or sterile saline solution may be used.
- Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20 -22°C (38 - 72°F) or refrigerated temperature, 2 - 8°C (35.6 – 46.4°F)
  - Do Not Freeze
- For locations in the Nashville area and with advanced notice, a cytogenetic technologist may be provided to verify that an adequate sample has been obtained.

### ***Fine Needle Aspirate:***

- Volume: Entire aspirate
- Container: 15 ml sterile centrifuge tube containing sterile transport media
  - Sterile transport media provided by GAI upon request, sterile media such as RPMI, or sterile saline solution may be used.
  - Do Not Use Formalin
- Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20 -22°C (38 - 72°F) or refrigerated temperature, 2 - 8°C (35.6 – 46.4°F)
  - Do Not Freeze

### ***Lymph Node:***

- Volume: Entire lymph node
- Container: Sterile container containing sterile transport media
  - Sterile transport media provided by GAI upon request, sterile media such as RPMI, or sterile saline solution may be used.
  - Do Not Use Formalin
- Rinse lymph nodes collected in non-sterile conditions with sterile balanced salts solution, Ringer's lactate, or sterile saline.
- Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20 -22°C (68 - 72°F) or refrigerated temperature, 2 -8°C (35.6 – 46.4°F)
  - Do Not Freeze

### ***Masses / Tumors:***

- Volume: Entire mass / tumor
- Container: Sterile specimen cup containing sterile transport media
  - Sterile transport media provided by GAI upon request, sterile media such as RPMI, or balanced salt solution may be used.
  - Do Not Use Formalin
- Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20 -22°C (68 - 72°F) or refrigerated temperature, 2 - 8°C (35.6 – 46.4°F)
  - Do Not Freeze

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### **Peritoneal Fluid:**

- Volume: 15 -50 ml peritoneal fluid
- Container: 50 ml sterile centrifuge tube or specimen cup
- Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20 -22°C (68 -72°F) or refrigerated temperature, 2 - 8°C (35.6 – 46.4°F)
  - Do Not Freeze

### **Peripheral Blood:**

- **Children – Adults (8 days and up)**
  - Volume: 2 – 5 ml peripheral blood
  - Container: Sodium Heparin vacutainer; invert tube 4 – 8 times to prevent clots
  - Do Not Use Lithium
  - Invert tube 4 – 8 time to prevent clotsStorage Conditions: Room temperature, 20 – 22°C (68 - 72°F) or refrigerated temperature, 2 - 8°C (35.6 – 46.4°F)
    - Do Not Freeze
- **Newborns (0 – 7 days)**
  - Volume: 1 – 2 ml peripheral blood
  - Container: Sodium Heparin vacutainer; invert tube 4 – 8 times to prevent clots
  - Do Not Use Lithium
  - Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20 – 22°C (68 - 72°F) or refrigerated temperature, 2 – 8°C (35.6 – 46.4°F)
    - Do Not Freeze
- **PUBS (Percutaneous Umbilical Blood Specimen/Cord Blood)**
  - Volume: 1 – 2 ml PUBS or cord blood
  - Container: Sodium Heparin vacutainer; invert tube 4 – 8 times to prevent clots
  - Do Not Use Lithium
  - Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20 - 22°C (68 - 72°F) or refrigerated temperature, 2 – 8°C (35.6 – 46.4°F)
    - Do Not Freeze

### **Pleural Fluid:**

- Volume: 15 -50 ml pleural fluid
- Container: Sterile centrifuge tube or specimen cup
- Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20 - 22°C (68 - 72°F) or refrigerated temperature, 2 - 8°C (35.6 – 46.4°F)
  - Do Not Freeze

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### ***Products of Conception:***

- Volume:  $\geq 100$  mg of appropriate tissue; If volume is inadequate, all tests requested may not be performed.
  - Specimen collected should include, by order of preference, one or more of the following: villi, placenta or placental membrane, or recognizable fetal parts.
  - Stillborn: Placenta containing chorionic villi is the preferred tissue; include other tissue listed if possible
  - Stillborn or infant autopsy: Preferred tissues by order of preference: lung, kidney, thymus, skin.
- Rinse tissue collected in non-sterile conditions with sterile balanced salt solution, Ringer's lactate, or sterile saline.
- Container: Sterile container containing sterile transport media
  - Sterile transport media, provided by GAI upon request, sterile media such as RPMI, or sterile saline solution may be used
  - Carefully tighten the lid of container to prevent leakage
  - Do Not Use Formalin
- Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20 -22°C (68 - 72°C) or refrigerated temperature, 2 - 8°C (35.6 – 46.4°F)
  - Do Not Freeze

### ***Slides (Paraffin Embedded Tissue):***

- Volume: Submit 2 slides per probe requested
  - Cut specimen 3 – 4  $\mu$  thick.
  - Use positively charged slides.
- Submit H & E slides marked with the area of interest.
- Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20 – 22°C (68 -72°F)

### ***Tissue, Solid (Constitutional):***

- Volume: 3mm<sup>3</sup> tissue biopsy
- Container: Sterile specimen cup containing sterile transport media
  - Sterile transport media provided by GAI upon request, sterile media such as RPMI, or balanced salt solution may be used.
  - Do Not Use Formalin
- Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20 - 22°C (68 - 72°F) or refrigerated temperature, 2 - 8°C (35.6 – 46.4°F)
  - Do Not Freeze

### ***Urine:***

- Volume:  $\geq 33$  ml of urine
- Container: Sterile container
  - Carefully tighten the lid of the container to prevent leakage
- Storage Conditions: Refrigerated temperature, 2 - 8°C (35.6 – 46.4°F)
  - Do Not Freeze

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### Specimen Collection Requirements for Molecular Testing

#### DNA Based Testing (IgVH Hypermutation, JAK2, B Cell & T Cell Clonality, NGS, Thrombophilia, Breast Milk Identity)

##### **Bone Marrow:**

- Volume: 1.5 – 5ml bone marrow; from the first or, at least, second tap
- Container: EDTA (purple top) vacutainer
  - Sodium Heparin tube can be used but is not preferred.
  - Invert tube 4 – 8 times to prevent clots
- Storage Conditions: Refrigerated temperature, 2 - 8°C (35.6 – 46.4°F)
  - Do Not Freeze
- Specimen must be received in the lab within 72 hours of draw

##### **Breast Milk:**

- Volume: 5-10 mL
- Container: Sterile DNase/RNase free 15 mL centrifuge tube
- Storage Conditions: Refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C (35.6-46.6°F) or frozen temperature, -25 to – 15°C (-13 to 5°F)
  - If specimen is frozen and thawed prior to preparing aliquot for GAI, do not re-freeze specimen, send at refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C (35.6-46.6°F)

##### **Buccal Swab:**

- Volume: Entire Swab (1)
- Container: Original collection tube, dry.
- Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20-22°C (68-72°F) or refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C (35.6-46.6°F)
  - Do Not Freeze

##### **Peripheral Blood:**

- Volume: 2 – 5 ml peripheral blood
- Container: EDTA (purple top) vacutainer
  - Sodium Heparin tube can be used but is not preferred
  - Invert tube 4 – 8 times to prevent clots
- Storage Conditions: Refrigerated temperature, 2 - 8°C (35.6 – 46.4°F)
  - Do Not Freeze
- Specimen must be received in the lab within 72 hours of draw

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### Specimen Collection Requirements for Molecular Testing RNA Based Testing: (BCR/ABL1 p210 & BCR/ABL 1 p190)

#### ***Bone Marrow:***

- Volume: 1.5 – 5ml bone marrow; from the first or, at least, second tap
- Container: EDTA (purple top) vacutainer
  - Sodium Heparin tube can be used but is not preferred.
  - Invert tube 4 – 8 times to prevent clots
- Storage Conditions: Refrigerated temperature, 2 - 8°C (35.6 – 46.4°F)
  - Do Not Freeze
- Specimen must be received in the lab within 72 hours of draw

#### ***Peripheral Blood***

- Volume: 2 – 5 ml peripheral blood
- Container: EDTA (purple top) vacutainer
  - Sodium Heparin tube can be used but is not preferred
  - Invert tube 4 – 8 times to prevent clots
- Storage Conditions: Refrigerated temperature, 2 - 8°C (35.6 – 46.4°F)
- Do Not Freeze
- Specimen must be received in the lab within 72 hours of draw

#### ***Fixed Pellets (Bone Marrow or Peripheral Blood)***

- Volume: Cell pellet in Methanol:Acetic Acid (3:1); pellet must be visible
  - Pellet must not be older than 1 week
- Container: Sterile centrifuge tube
- Storage Conditions: Refrigerated temperature, 2 -8°C (35.6 – 46.4°F)
  - Do Not Freeze

### Specimen Shipping

- Call Genetics Associates, Inc. at 615-327-4532 for pick up and additional information.
- Specimen Shipping Kits and FedEx Shipping Bags
  - Specimen shipping kits are provided by GAI.
  - FedEx overnight shipment will be provided for all outlying areas.
  - Mark the “Saturday Delivery” box on the FedEx airbill when samples are shipped on Friday.
  - Samples shipped on Saturday by FedEx will not be delivered until the next business day .
- Enclose completed requisition form with each specimen unless a electronic order has been sent.
- Enclose a refrigerated cold pack in the shipping box for overnight transportation for specimens requesting chromosome analysis, FISH, ICP, or microarray and avoid extreme temperatures to ensure specimen integrity.
- Enclose a frozen cool pack in the shipping box for overnight transportation for specimens requesting PCR testing and avoid temperature extremes to ensure specimen integrity.
- Store samples as stated above for each specific specimen type until pickup by courier.