

GENETICS ASSOCIATES, LLC
SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND HANDLING GUIDE

Patient Identification and Preparation Requirements

Patient Identification Requirements:

Personnel must confirm the patient's identity by checking at least two patient-specific identifiers before collecting the specimen and label the specimen in the presence of the patient.

- 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.

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.

Specimen Labeling and Order/Requisition Requirements

Specimen Labeling Requirements:

Primary specimen containers must be labeled with at least two patient-specific identifiers.

- Label all specimens in the presence of the patient.
- Positive identification is the responsibility of the person collecting the sample.

Requisition Requirements:

A completed order or requisition form must be submitted with all specimens. Completed orders or requisition forms should contain the following information:

- Full name of patient
- Date of birth
- Referring physician
- Specimen type
- Test requested
- Related patient history
- Secondary unique identifier
- Sex of patient
- Facility name and address
- Date and time of specimen collection
- ICD 10 Code/referring diagnoses

Transportation Instructions

- Include a cool pack in the specimen box during warmer weather to ensure specimen integrity.
- Seal containers with parafilm to prevent leakage.
- Enclose a completed requisition form with each specimen unless an electronic order has been sent.
- Mark the "Saturday Delivery" box on the FedEx air bill for all specimens shipped on Friday.
- Call Genetics Associates, LLC at 615-327-4532 if specimen pickup is needed or for additional information.

Chromosome Analysis and FISH Collection Requirements

Special Instructions

- Tyrosine kinase inhibitors such as Gleevec may decrease mitotic index for chromosome studies.
- Specimens exposed to formalin fixative or are frozen will not yield results.

Amniotic Fluid	Volume: 10-20 mL whole fluid; discard the first mL of fluid Container: Sterile centrifuge tube or container Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20-22°C or refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C
Bone Core	Volume: Entire core Container: Sterile centrifuge tube with sterile saline or RPMI Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20-22°C or refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C
Bone Marrow	Volume: 2-5 mL; from the first tap Container: Sodium heparin blood collection tube; inverted 4-8 times; do not use lithium heparin Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20-22°C or refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C

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Chorionic Villi	Volume: 10-20 mg; include additional 10 mg if Microarray testing is requested Container: Sterile centrifuge tube containing sterile saline, transport media, or RPMI Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20-22°C or refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C
Fine Needle Aspirate	Volume: Entire aspirate Container: Sterile centrifuge tube containing sterile saline, transport media, or RPMI Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20-22°C or refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C
Fixed Pellets	Volume: Pellet must be visible; no older than 1 week if Microarray testing is requested Container: Sterile centrifuge tube containing 3:1 Methanol to Acetic Acid Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20-22°C or refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C
Lymph Node	Volume: Entire lymph node Container: Sterile centrifuge tube containing sterile saline, transport media, or RPMI Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20-22°C or refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C
Mass/Tumor	Volume: Entire mass or tumor Container: Sterile container containing sterile saline, transport media, or RPMI Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20-22°C or refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C
Peritoneal Fluid	Volume: 15-50 mL peritoneal fluid Container: Sterile centrifuge tube or container Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20-22°C or refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C
Peripheral Blood	Volume (Children ≥8 days old - adults): 2-5 mL Volume (Newborns 0-7 days old): 1-2 mL Container: Sodium heparin tube inverted 4-8 times; do not use lithium heparin Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20-22°C or refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C
Pleural Fluid	Volume: 15-50 mL peritoneal fluid Container: Sterile centrifuge tube or container Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20-22°C or refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C
Products of Conception	Volume: 15-20 mg of appropriate tissues; include additional 10 mg if Microarray testing is requested Container: Sterile container containing sterile saline, transport media, or RPMI Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20-22°C or refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C
PUBS (Percutaneous Umbilical Blood/Cord Blood)	Volume: 1-2 mL Container: Sodium heparin blood collection tube; inverted 4-8 times; do not use lithium heparin Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20-22°C or refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C
Skin Biopsy	Volume: 3mm ³ Container: Sterile container containing sterile saline, transport media, or RPMI Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20-22°C or refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C
Slides (Paraffin Embedded Tissue)	Volume: 2 positively charged slides per probe requested; cut 3-4 µm thick Container: Plastic slide transport box Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20-22°C Submit H&E slide marked with the area of interest
Urine	Volume: ≥33 mL Container: Sterile container containing Carbowax or PreservCyt; 2: 1 ratio (2 parts urine to 1 part preservative) Storage Conditions: Refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C

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Molecular Testing (NGS, PCR, and CMA) Collection Requirements

Special Instructions

- Molecular testing is not available on specimens originating in New York state.
- Isolated or Extracted Nucleic Acid Acceptanced Policy: Genetics Associates, LLC only accepts nucleic acid for clinical testing that was isolated or extracted in a CLIA-certified or a laboratory meeting equivalent requirements as determined by the CAP and/or the CMS.
- Fixed pellets sent for molecular testing should not be older than 1 week.
- Specimens for RNA based tests (BCR::ABL p210 & 190) must be received in the lab within 72 hrs. of collection
- Specimens for BCR::ABL PCR testing that are 10 days or more past collection will be rejected.

Amniotic Fluid	Volume: 10-20 mL fluid Container: Sterile centrifuge tube or container Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20-22°C or refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C
Bone Marrow	Volume: 2-5 mL; from the first tap Container: Sodium heparin or EDTA blood collection tube; inverted 4-8 times; do not use lithium heparin Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20-22°C or refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C
Chorionic Villi	Volume: 10-20 mg; include additional 10 mg if Microarray testing is requested Container: Sterile centrifuge tube containing sterile saline, transport media, or RPMI Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20-22°C or refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C
Extracted DNA	Volume: 2 µg Container: Original collection tube, dry Storage Collection: Refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C
Fine Needle Aspirate	Volume: Entire aspirate Container: Sterile centrifuge tube containing sterile saline, transport media, or RPMI Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20-22°C or refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C
Fixed Pellet	Volume: Pellet must be visible; no older than 1 week if Microarray testing is requested Container: Sterile centrifuge tube containing 3:1 Methanol to Acetic Acid Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20-22°C or refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C
Peripheral Blood	Volume (Children ≥8 days old - adults): 2-5 mL Volume (Newborns 0-7 days old): 1-2 mL Container: Sodium heparin or EDTA collection tube; inverted 4-8 times; do not use lithium heparin Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20-22°C or refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C
Products of Conception	Volume: 15-20 mg of appropriate tissues; include additional 10 mg if Microarray testing is requested Container: Sterile container containing sterile saline, transport media, or RPMI Storage Conditions: Room temperature, 20-22°C or refrigerated temperature, 2-8°C