

Pathology and Non-GYN Specimen Collection Quick Reference Guide

Biopsies

- ✓ 10:1 Ratio- Formalin to Specimen
- ✓ No needles in specimen
- ✓ Send specimen at room temperature

Breast Specimens

- 10:1 Ratio- Formalin to Specimen
- Send specimen at room temperature
- Specimen must arrive at Billings Clinic within 24 hours of collection.
- Fixation period is 6-72 hours; *fixation time greater than 72 hours may require repeating the biopsy.*
- Monday – Thursday specimen collection preferred.
 - If specimen is collected on Friday, please call Billings Clinic Pathology at (406) 657-4069.

Lymph Nodes (and other specimens for potential Flow Cytometry when a diagnosis of lymphoma is considered likely):

- ❖ When lymphoma is being ruled out, flow cytometry may be necessary. Flow cytometry cannot be performed on formalin fixed specimens. These cases should be discussed with pathologist before sending.
- ❖ Specimens should be sent in RPMI fluid. Saline is acceptable but not preferred.
- ❖ Send specimen refrigerated. Please place a “Keep Refrigerated” sticker on the specimen’s biohazard transport bag.
- ❖ Specimen must arrive at Billings Clinic within 24 hours of collection.
- ❖ If the specimen is >1.5 cm it should be cut in half to ensure proper preservation.
- ❖ Monday- Thursday specimen collection preferred.
 - If specimen is collected on Friday, please call Billings Clinic Pathology at 406-657-4069.

Non-Gyn Specimen (FNA Procedure)

- Place specimens in a vial of Cytolyt (cytology fixative).
 - If cytology fixative is unavailable equal parts of 50% Ethyl Alcohol can be used.
 - Formalin/Prefer is not a cytology fixative.
- Smear slides collection
 - Wet fix half of the smear slides in 100% reagent/ethyl alcohol for at least 10 minutes. If alcohol is not available, spray fixative will be accepted, label as spray fixed.
 - Air dry the other half of the smear slides. Must be dried thoroughly before being placed in transport container.
- Send specimens at room temperature

Placentas

- For routine pathology:
 - 10:1 Ratio- Formalin to Specimen
 - Send specimen at room temperature
- For Micro-cultures or to be sent out for genetic testing (karyotype, chromosome analysis, etc.):
 - Send fresh tissue, no formalin.
 - Must be refrigerated. Please place a “Keep Refrigerated” sticker on the specimen’s biohazard transport bag.

Breast Nipple Discharge

- Collect specimen directly into a ThinPrep pap vial (preferred collection).
 - Label vial as “Nipple Discharge”
- Secondary option - Smear slide collection
 - Nipple discharge can be collected directly on labeled glass slide(s). Slide(s) need to be fixed in 100% reagent/ethyl alcohol for at least 10 minutes. If alcohol is not available, spray fixative will be accepted, label as spray fixed.
 - Do not send air dried slides.
- Send specimen at room temperature

Fluid for Culture

- Collect fluid directly into a sterile container
- Indicate fluid type on requisition
- Send specimen at room temperature