Joint and Breast Cyst Fluids for Cytology

Materials Needed:
- 20 mL syringe and 21g needle
- **Inpatient** - Use EPIC to enter “Non-Gynecological” cytology order (Test #4001)
  - **Outpatient** - Complete and submit a “Pathology/Cytology” order either through EPIC or completed requisition form. Include customer billing information.

Specimen Requirements:
- Preferred amount of fluid is 20 mL, however will not reject if less than 20 mLs.
- Specimens should be submitted fresh, unfixed.
- Syringe labeled with customer’s name and date of birth, and date & time collected.
  - **Note:** Needle must be removed, and syringe recapped.
- Specimen must be refrigerated until it is received in laboratory.

Specimen Collection:
1. Assemble syringe and needle.
2. Clean area with alcohol and introduce needle into lesion and aspirate the fluid.
3. When procedure is completed remove needle from syringe and aspirate the fluid into a non-sterile specimen container or re-cap the syringe with the fluid still in it.
4. Label either the specimen container or the re-capped syringe with customer’s name and date of birth, along with date & time collected.
5. Deliver specimen to the Pathology laboratory or through courier service.

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