



Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Protocol for Collection of Specimens for Flow Cytometry:

Tissue or FNA

- Collect sample in a conical tube or capped sterile specimen container.
- Specimens must be submitted in RPMI or Hank's solution.
- Specimens may also be placed in saline or a saline soaked gauze if to be transported to the Flow lab within 1 hour.

Bone Marrow or Peripheral Blood:

- Collect one 3ml lavender or sodium heparin green top tube or heparinized syringe.
- 1ml whole blood or bone marrow minimum.

Body Fluids:

- Collect sample in a conical tube or capped sterile specimen container.
- Collect as much fluid as possible.
- Testing on these samples is governed by cell recovery in addition to fluid volume.

Specimen Processing and Testing Notes:

1. All specimen types must be transported to the lab ASAP at Room Temp.
2. Samples must never be frozen.
3. Specimens should be stored at Room Temp for up to 24hrs, or Refrigerate if to be tested next day.
4. Flow Cytometry testing is performed Monday-Friday on 1st shift only. Specimens collected after 3pm on Friday will be sent to outside lab for testing. Samples received on the weekend will be sent to outside lab or held until Monday AM at the discretion of the Clinical Pathologist and Flow Cytometry Supervisor.