



## Pathology Guidelines for Collection and Transportation of Specimens

### General Guidelines

The first step toward ensuring accurate and reliable results begins with proper specimen collection and continues with appropriate handling and timely transport to the laboratory.

- Select the proper specimen and collect an adequate sample for examination.
- Specimens should be of sufficient quantity to permit completion of all tests ordered.
- All specimens must be properly labeled with 2 patient identifiers and the site or they will be rejected.
- Transport the specimen in the appropriate container and fixative (if applicable).
- The containers/specimens should show NO signs of leakage.
- Most pathology specimens (biopsies and resections) are to be preserved and delivered to the lab in 10% neutral buffered formalin to avoid cellular degeneration. The specimen should be placed in fixative as soon as possible but within 1 hour of the biopsy or resection procedure. Completely cover the specimen with formalin. A 1:20 ratio (size of specimen to formalin) is ideal, but not always possible. The time of excision (cold ischemic time) and the time specimen is placed in fixative should also be documented and provided to the laboratory.
- Any fresh specimens for pathology should be delivered to the lab immediately. If these specimens (not for intraoperative consultation) are delivered after regular Histology/Pathology lab hours, they should be placed in the walk-in refrigerator in the lab.
- All specimens must be accompanied by a requisition with the following elements: Adequate patient identification information, patient gender, patient date of birth, name and address (if different than the address of the receiving laboratory) of the legally authorized ordering personnel, testing requested, and source of specimen.
  - Clinical information should be provided when appropriate
  - Date of last menstrual period should be provided for gynecologic specimens.

### Common Specimen Types

**Cytology:** Fresh specimen

**Flow Cytometry:** Specimen in RPMI media (provided by laboratory)

**Pathology specimens in fixative:** 10% neutral buffered formalin (32 ounce, 92 ounce, 165 ounce, and 3.5 gallon containers provided by laboratory)

**Specimens for intraoperative consultation:** Fresh specimen

**Liver for quantitative iron:** Specimen in metal free container (provided by laboratory)

**Renal pathology to Arkana Laboratories:** Specimen in renal pathology kit (provided by laboratory)

**Pap test (Thin Prep Pap Test):** PreservCyt Solution, spatula, and brush (kit provided by laboratory)

**Fine Needle Aspirations (FNA):** sterile slides, methanol, and CytoLyt (provided by laboratory)

**\*\*Please call (816)691-1318 with any questions regarding the collection and/or transportation of pathology specimens.\*\***