

# PATHOLOGY SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS

## Quick Reference Guide

SPECIMEN TYPE	FLOW CYTOMETRY	CYTOGENETICS	FISH	MOLECULAR	IHC	STORAGE & TRANSPORTATION
Peripheral Blood	● 3 mL in sodium heparin (green top) preferred, or 3 mL in EDTA (purple top)	● 5 mL in sodium heparin (green top)	● 3 mL in sodium heparin (green top) preferred, or 3 mL in EDTA (purple top)	● 5-10 mL EDTA tube (purple top) preferred; ACD (yellow top) acceptable	N/A	Ship specimen same day (whenever possible) with refrigerated (not frozen) cold pack.
Bone Marrow Aspirate	● 1-2 mL in sodium heparin (green top) preferred, or 1-2 mL in EDTA (purple top)	● 2-3 mL in sodium heparin (green top). When sending a BM core biopsy, please include a 5mL peripheral blood specimen in sodium heparin.	● 2-3 mL in sodium heparin (green top) preferred, or 1-2 mL in EDTA (purple top)	● 1-2 mL in EDTA tube (purple top) preferred; ACD (yellow top) acceptable	N/A	Ship specimen same day (whenever possible) with refrigerated (not frozen) cold pack.
Fresh Tissue	Multiple 2-3 mm pieces of tissue in RPMI transport media (optimum RPMI to tissue ratio is 15:1; multiple vials are acceptable)	Multiple 2-3 mm pieces of tissue in RPMI transport media (optimum RPMI to tissue ratio is 15:1; multiple vials are acceptable)	Multiple 2-3 mm pieces of tissue in RPMI transport media (optimum RPMI to tissue ratio is 15:1; multiple vials are acceptable)	Minimum of 250 mg tissue in RPMI transport media	N/A	Ship specimen same day (whenever possible) with refrigerated (not frozen) cold pack.
Body Fluids	Mix 1:1 in RPMI transport media	Mix 1:1 in RPMI transport media	N/A	N/A	N/A	Ship specimen same day (whenever possible) with refrigerated (not frozen) cold pack.
PNH Profile	● 3 mL peripheral blood in EDTA (purple top) preferred, should be processed within 24 hours	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Ship specimen same day (whenever possible) with refrigerated (not frozen) cold pack.
Cord Blood	N/A	2-5 mL in sodium heparin (green top)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Ship specimen same day (whenever possible) with refrigerated (not frozen) cold pack.
Formalin-Fixed Paraffin-Embedded Tissue	N/A	N/A	Minimum 0.2 x 0.2 x 0.2 cm tissue; non-decalcified tissue only (FISH only)	1 H&E slide and 6-8 unstained slides, 5-7 microns of BM clot or tissue fixed with 10% NBF fixative. Please circle tumor for microdissection. Alternatively, the FFPE block of the BM clot can be sent for sectioning in our lab.	1 H&E slide with its corresponding paraffin block (10% neutral buffered formalin) - preferred	Ship specimen same day (whenever possible) with refrigerated (not frozen) cold pack.
Voided Urine or Bladder Wash (Bladder Cancer FISH)	N/A	N/A	Minimum of 33 mL voided urine or bladder washing mixed 2:1 with preservative (Preservcyt® or Carbowax™).	N/A	N/A	Sample should be stored in refrigerator (4° C) until it is packaged for transport and sent for processing within 24 hours of collection. Sample should be shipped with refrigerated (not frozen) cold packs. Urine samples should not be shipped or stored at temperatures above 25° C and should be processed within 48 hours of collection.

## SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS

Include the minimum specimen requirements necessary for testing. Test-specific requirements may vary. Please refer to online test directory at [csilaboratories.com](http://csilaboratories.com) for detailed specimen requirements for individual tests. Be sure to:

- Label all tubes with at least 2 unique patient identifiers. Slides require 1 patient identifier. Sample patient identifiers include name, DOB, specimen ID # or medical record #.
- Close all tubes and canisters tightly.
- Completely fill out and enclose paperwork.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR OPTIMAL ANALYSIS

- Bone marrow smears should not be exposed to formalin vapors from open core/clot biopsy jars.
- Bone marrow smears should be completely air-dried (1-2 hours) prior to packaging in slide holders.
- Please include a copy of patient's most recent CBC and clinical history.
- In the event of a dry-tap, please send a second core specimen in RPMI transport media and 10 ml of peripheral blood in sodium heparin for other testing.

## SPECIMEN DELAY

Specimens can be delayed or rejected due to:

- Labeling without required patient identifiers.
- Specimen received without requisition.
- Mismatch between data on requisition and on the specimen sent.
- Tissue block is not processed correctly and reprocessing is required.

## SHIPPING INFORMATION

- Ship specimens with one refrigerated (not frozen) gel pack in the shipper kit. If gel pack is frozen, run water over it until it is cold but not frozen.
- To request test requisitions and shipping materials, or to request a courier or specimen pickup, please contact Client Service at 800-459-1185.

## ABOUT CSI LABORATORIES

For over 20 years, CSI Laboratories has provided personalized cancer diagnostics to help pathologists and oncologists accurately diagnose and treat patients.



FLOW  
CYTOMETRY



FISH



HISTOLOGY



CYTOGENETICS



MOLECULAR



TECH-ONLY



CONSULTATION



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