

# SPECIMEN COLLECTION GUIDE for Surgical Pathology/FNA/Non-Cytology



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| Specimen Type   | Collection Medium   |  | Testing Options   | Notes  |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Skin/Soft Tissue</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Viable skin (punches and shaves)</li> <li>Soft tissue (subcutaneous masses)</li> <li>Viable nail unit (punches, excisions)</li> </ul>  | <b>Formalin Fixative</b><br>(Except punch biopsies obtained for the purpose of EPIDERMAL NERVE FIBER DENSITY testing, ENFD specimens MUST be placed in Zamboni's fixative.) |  | <b>Routine Histopathology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Histochemical Studies (PAS, GMS, FM)</li> <li>Immunohistochemical Stains (S100, Melan-A, etc.)</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Skin neoplasms (pigmented and verrucous lesions, masses, ulcerations)</li> <li>Dermatitis (tinea, eczema)</li> <li>Subcutaneous masses (lipoma, ganglia)</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Non-Gynecological Body Fluids</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ascitic Fluid</li> <li>Bronchial Washings and Brushings</li> <li>Cerebrospinal Fluids</li> <li>Gastric Washings and Brushings</li> <li>Nipple Discharge</li> <li>Pleural/Peritoneal Fluids</li> <li>Sputum</li> <li>Ureteral Washings and Brushings</li> <li>Urine</li> <li>Other Fluids</li> </ul> | <b>Fresh (sterile cup)</b>  |  | <b>Non-Gynecological Cytopathology Testing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Histochemical Studies (PAS, GMS, FM)</li> <li>False-Negative rates for fungal identification may be increased with:</li> <li>Exceedingly small samples</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General impression (neoplastic and inflammatory diseases may be suggested by superficial samples; however, definitive diagnoses are uncommon)</li> <li>Refrigerate upon collection</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Bone</b>   | <b>Formalin</b>   |  | <b>Routine Histopathology</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Osteomyelitis, neoplasms, exostoses</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Bone</b>   | <b>Fresh (sterile cup)</b><br><b>Aerobic and/or anaerobic swab</b><br><b>E-swab (aerobic and/or anaerobic cultures)</b>   |  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify organisms causing osteomyelitis</li> <li>Specimens may be, if large, wrapped with gauze moisturized with saline or, if small, embedded within media within swab</li> <li>Anaerobic specimens should not be exposed to oxygen for more than 30 minutes (place in e-swab or anaerobic swab)</li> </ul> |
| <b>Aspiration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint fluids</li> </ul>  | <b>Fresh (sterile cup) or in dehydrated alcohol)</b>  |  | <b>Routine crystal analysis</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Test for monosodium urate crystals</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Masses, cysts</li> </ul>   | <b>Fresh (sterile cup) or in formalin</b>   |  | <b>CYTOLOGY</b> (study of cells)  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ganglion cyst, benign and malignant neoplasms</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Wound PCR</b>  | <b>Molecular Transport Medium (MTM)</b>   |  | <b>Organism identification &amp; sensitivity</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Superficial or deep tissues</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Bacteriology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wounds</li> <li>Aspirations</li> </ul>   | <b>Fresh (sterile cup)</b>  |  | <b>Aerobic culture &amp; sensitivity</b>  | Superficial tissues  |
|   | <b>E-swab or Swab with GEL</b>  |  | <b>Aerobic and anaerobic culture &amp; sensitivity</b>  | Deep tissue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specimen should NOT be exposed to oxygen more than 30 minutes</li> <li>If the specimen is viable and received at Stride lab, it will be forwarded to Quest Diagnostics</li> </ul>   |
|   | <b>Aerobic Swab (without GEL)</b>   |  | <b>Aerobic culture &amp; sensitivity</b>  |  |
| <b>Fine Needle Aspiration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breast</li> <li>Head</li> <li>Neck</li> <li>Thyroid</li> </ul>   | <b>Fresh (sterile cup), two air-dried slides and two fixed slides</b>   |  | <b>Non-Gynecological Cytopathology Testing</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cysts (fluid-filled lumps), nodules or masses (solid lumps) and enlarged lymph nodes</li> <li>Refrigerate upon collection</li> </ul>  |