Cytogenetics, Flow Cytometry and FISH Specimens for Leukemia, Lymphoma and Other Oncology Referrals

General Specimen Requirements

- **DO NOT ADD FORMALIN**
- Use sterile technique; maintain sterility
- Close tubes tightly.
- Keep at ambient room temperature; avoid freezing or exposing the specimen to extreme temperatures. Protect from temperature extremes by adding an ice pack to the shipping carton during hot weather. **Keep the ice pack from coming into direct contact with the specimen**.
- Do not centrifuge or split specimens.
- Handle as PRIORITY specimen. It is preferable that specimens be received the same day of collection, and always within 24 hours.
- Lymph nodes and other tissue should be delivered to the laboratory for processing on the same day as collection for best results. Flow Studies are best if delivered by 7 p.m.
- If submitting specimens for both Cytogenetic and Flow Studies, place in separate bags - each with a copy of the completed laboratory requisition.

Information to Submit with Specimen

- Complete a Legacy Laboratory Services requisition.
- Include clinical indication or suspected diagnosis.
- Include recent CBC with differential.
- For Flow Studies, always include aspirate and blood smears, minimum of two each, preferably four each.

General Shipping Guidelines

- **For local delivery**: Call Client Services at (503) 413-1234 or Toll Free 1-877-270-5566 to arrange a PRIORITY local courier service.
- **For long distance shipping**: Ship specimens with a priority status for delivery within 24 hours. Use courier service previously arranged by your Legacy Diagnostic Field Representative. Call Client Services Toll Free 1-877-270-5566 to notify us of your transportation method and tracking number.

	TISSUE Lymph node, tumor biopsy	**BLOOD**	**BONE MARROW**
CYTOGENETICS			
Specimen Requirements	Approx 1.0 cm^3 biopsy, covered with sterile saline, Hank's balanced salt solution or transport media (e.g. RPMI).	2-4 mL blood in preservative free sodium heparin vacutainer tube (dark green top).	Collect 2-4 mL in sterile sodium heparinized syringe. Mix well by inverting and transfer into sterile sodium heparin tube (dark green top).
Comments		Leukemia workups require a minimum of 5% blasts.	RPMI is recommended if transit time of more than six hours is anticipated.

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	TISSUE Lymph node, tumor biopsy	BLOOD	BONE MARROW
FLOW CYTOMETRY			
Specimen Requirements	Completely immerse fresh tissue in RPMI tissue culture medium. Arrange for delivery to the lab by 7 p.m. on the same day of collection.	2-4 mL EDTA (lavender top) anticoagulated blood.	Collect 2-4 mL in sterile sodium heparinized syringe. Mix well by inverting and transfer into an EDTA tube (lavender top) or into RPMI for transport to the laboratory.
Comments			RPMI is recommended if transit time of more than six hours is anticipated.
PATHOLOGY			
Specimen Requirements			Place bone marrow biopsy and aspirate clot into separate containers with 10% neutral buffered formalin. Note: Do not use B5.
FISH			
Specimen Requirements	Specimens for HER-2/*neu* FISH: Only 10% neutral buffered formalin-fixed, paraffin embedded tissue sections; minimum of two charged slides or paraffin block are acceptable (with an H&E stained slide). For all other specimens: Fresh tissue immersed in RPMI media. Transport at ambient room temperature within 24 hours of collection OR 10% neutral buffered formalin-fixed, paraffin embedded tissue sections; minimum of two charged slides or paraffin block are acceptable (with an H&E stained slide).	Specimens for Multiple Myeloma: Collect 2-4 mL of peripheral blood in EDTA (lavender top) or sodium heparin (green top) tube. For all other specimens: Collect 2-4 mL (for adults) of peripheral blood in sodium heparin (green top) or EDTA (lavender top) tube.	Specimens of Multiple Myeloma: Collect 2-4 mL of bone marrow in EDTA (lavender top) tube, sodium heparin (green top) tube or RPMI. For all other specimens: Collect 2-4 mL (for adults) of bone marrow in EDTA (lavender top), sodium heparin (green top) tube or RPMI is recommended if transit time of more than six hours is anticipated.