

COLLECTION INSTRUCTION FOR CLIENTS

All specimens:

All specimens **must** be accompanied by a requisition slip with the following patient information:

- Patient's name
- Patient's date of birth and sex
- Physician's name
- Insurance information
- Body site of specimen
- Any pertinent clinical history
- Pre-op diagnosis
- ICD-10 code
- Collection date

All specimens should be submitted in containers with two unique patient identifiers and proper fixative hazard label.

Routine specimens:

As soon as possible after removal, place in 10% neutral buffered formalin container, labeled with at least 2 patient identifiers. To ensure best fixation results, the tissue should be in an adequate amount of fixative (10-20 times the tissue volume).

Place in a properly labeled container, containing formalin. Place container in an individual biohazard Ziploc bag, if possible, with the accompanying requisition slip in the outside pocket. If specimen is too large to fit in bag, attached requisition to the container with tape. One requisition can accompany multiple specimens, from the same patient, but each specimen should be placed in its own container and listed separately on the requisition.

Contact Lab to arrange pick up of the specimen(s).

Direct immunofluorescent studies (DIF):

Place specimen in a properly labeled container containing Michel's Fixative. Keep stored in refrigerator until picked up.

Uric acid crystals:

Specimen should be submitted in 100% ethyl alcohol, not formalin.

Breast biopsies for Estrogen and Progesterone receptors and Her2/neu (c-erB-2) studies:

Breast biopsies should ideally be placed in 10% neutral buffered formalin for no longer than 72 hours. Call lab if coordination is needed to accommodate holidays and/or weekends.

Non-gyn slides:

Must have patient name and body site written on slides and can be fixed or air-dried, but must specify which. Slides can be “wet fixed” by submerging freshly prepared smears in an alcohol fixative such as, 95% Ethanol, an Ether alcohol mixture, 100% Methanol, 80% Propanol and Isopropanol, or Denatured alcohol, for a minimum of 15 minutes. Alternatively, slides can be fixed using a coating fixative such as Carbowax or Diaphine fixative spray.

Muscle Biopsies:

Require special handling and must be submitted fresh. Refer to The Muscle Biopsy Procedure Manual for further instruction.

Gross only examinations:

Can be submitted with or without fixative, but if submitted with tissue, must contain formalin.

Other:

Tissue that cannot be processed immediately or require special procedures to be performed on tissue prior to fixation, should be refrigerated if DPL Office is closed for the day. The physician office should notify DPL what studies they require and the technician or pathologist will give direction for the handling of the specimen.