## Specimen Collection & Handling Instructions

## SPECIMEN COLLECTION FOR TISSUE BIOPSY



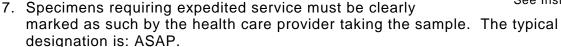
## **Specimen Handling and Transportation:**

1. Specimens for routine tissue pathology must be submitted in a container of 10% neutral buffered formalin

**Note:** Biopsies for examination by direct immunofluorescence techniques must be submitted in a special transport medium [Michel Transport Medium or Universal Fixative].

2. Specimens collected from multiple sites must be collected in separate containers with the anatomic site indicated.

- 3. Specimen container(s) must be tightly sealed to ensure safe handling and quality patient results. Leaking specimen container(s) may result in poor fixation, illegible labeling and lost tissue samples.
- Specimen(s) must be placed into a "Histology Specimen" poly bag. Multiple specimen containers can be placed in the same poly bag provided they are all Histology specimens from the <u>same</u> patient.
- 5. The completed Histology requisition must be placed in the separate pocket of the poly bag for this purpose (separated from the specimen container).
- 6. Specimens must be stored at room temperature and must not be subjected to freezing or extreme temperatures.





See Instruction #5

## **Histology Collection Kit**

The optimum volume of fixation is **10-20 times** of the specimen volume. There are two sizes of specimen containers routinely available for histology.

Kit components are ordered separately:

- 90 mL sterile container with 50 mL of histology preservative (10% neutral buffered formalin)
- 40 mL sterile container with 30 mL of histology preservative (10% neutral buffered formalin)
- Poly bag (small or large)
- Histology Requisition
- If larger specimen containers are required, contact LifeLabs Customer Care Centre.
- If Michel Transport Medium is required for direct immunofluorescence techniques, contact LifeLabs Customer Care Centre.





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#### **Specimen Labeling:**

All specimens should be clearly labeled **BEFORE** being sent to the laboratory for testing, to ensure correct identification of the patient and sample.

Each specimen/container must be labeled with:

- The patient's full name (printed in the same format as patient's health card)
- A second identifier such as date of birth or health card number
- Anatomic site of origin of the specimen

#### Specimen/container labeling options:

- Computer printed label <u>affixed to the side of the specimen container</u>.
- Clearly printed handwritten information on the sample vial label using indelible ink

### **Histology Requisition Information:**

All specimens must be submitted for testing with a completed Histology Requisition.

A single patient requisition is used for up to 8 specimen sites. Once completed, it must be placed in one of the poly bags associated with the specimen containers/case.

If more than 8 specimens are submitted for one patient, two separate requisitions must be completed.

The following information must be provided in a **legible format**:

#### Patient Information:

- Full name of patient (<u>printed in the same format as patient's health card</u>)
- Health card number
- Date of birth
- Date of specimen collection
- Time of specimen collection and formalin fixation (<u>breast specimens only</u>)
- Specimen site (up to 8 per requisition)
- Pertinent clinical information

#### **Health Care Provider Information:**

- Full name, address and billing number of the ordering health care provider
- Full name, address (and billing number if known) of any copy-to physicians



**CAUTION:** The preservative contains Formaldehyde Solution. Do not drink. If ingested, do not induce vomiting; call your doctor or local poison control center immediately. Vapor may be harmful if inhaled; use with adequate ventilation. Avoid contact with skin and eyes.

