

# Specimen requirements

This document serves as a general reference guide for minimum specimen requirements necessary for testing. Test-specific requirements may differ, please refer to the test menu online at [oncology.labcorp.com/cancer-care-team/test-menu](https://oncology.labcorp.com/cancer-care-team/test-menu) for detailed specimen requirements for individual tests.

- Label all tubes and slides with a minimum of 2 unique patient identifiers (i.e. name, DOB, specimen ID number, medical record number)
- Prepared slide(s) with only one identifier must be securely submitted in a container labeled with two identifiers
- Close specimen containers tightly

## Specimen delay/rejection

Specimens may be delayed and/or rejected for the following reasons:

- Specimen is not labeled with required patient identifiers
- Specimen and requisition identifier mismatch (examples: requisition-sample label number, patient name)
- Specimen is received without a test requisition or required information is missing from the requisition
- Tissue block is not processed correctly

## Shipping information

Please ship specimens in a timely manner based upon the test-specific requirements.

Unsure where to send a specimen? Please call our Client Services Department at 800-447-5816.

# Transportation kits and test requisitions

Labcorp Oncology provides transport kits at no additional cost for specimens being sent for testing.

To request printed test requisitions or supplies, or to schedule a pickup, please reach out to us at **866-875-2271**.

**For Labcorp clients sending test orders to the CMBP facility in North Carolina:** Please place supply orders and arrange for pickup through your designated Labcorp regional facilities.

## Test requisition instructions

Complete the test requisition with all requested information. Ensure all required fields are filled out and information submitted is accurate.

- **Client:** account number, name, department, address, ordering physician, phone number, physician/authorized signature
- **Patient:** name, gender, DOB, address
- **Billing:** insurance company name, policy number, group number (attach face sheet and copy of insurance card)
- **Specimen:** patient hospital status when sample collected, specimen ID numbers, body site, collection date and time
- **Clinical:** ICD-CM, clinical indication (attach clinical history and pathology reports), clinical status
- **Tests/services:** select tests to be performed

Send a signed, printed copy of the test requisition with your specimens. Please ensure that all information on the test requisition matches the information on the specimens submitted (i.e. blocks, slides, tubes).



## Find out more

Learn more about Labcorp Oncology's comprehensive menu of testing services. Contact your local Labcorp Oncology territory manager, call client services at **800-447-5816**, or visit [oncology.labcorp.com](https://oncology.labcorp.com).

## Locations & contact

Arizona 5005 South 40th Street Phoenix, AZ 85040 800.710.1800 Fax 800.481.4151	North Carolina Center for Molecular Biology and Pathology (CMBP) 1912 TW Alexander Dr, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 800.345.4363 Fax 919.361.7798
Connecticut 3 Forest Parkway Shelton, CT 06484 800.447.5816 Fax 212.258.2143	Tennessee 201 Summit View Drive, Suite 100 Brentwood, TN 37027 800.874.8532 Fax 615.370.8074

For more information, visit:  
[oncology.labcorp.com](https://oncology.labcorp.com)



Registered trademarks are property of its individual entity.  
©2023 Labcorp. All rights reserved. DX\_BRO\_L20817-1023-2

## QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

# Oncology/pathology specimen requirements\*

\* Labcorp Oncology often uses a combination of technologies to provide a comprehensive analysis for the referring physician. Additional material may be requested if necessary. If less than the minimum specimen requirement is received, Labcorp Oncology will attempt to perform the ordered test(s); however, a valid result may not be obtained due to insufficient specimen. If sending extracted DNA, it must be extracted in a CLIA-certified laboratory. Please call before sending.



# Oncology/pathology specimen requirements

This document serves as a general reference guide for minimum specimen requirements necessary for testing. Test-specific requirements may differ, please refer to the directory of tests and services online at [oncology.labcorp.com/cancer-care-team/test-menu](https://oncology.labcorp.com/cancer-care-team/test-menu) for detailed specimen requirements for individual tests.

Specimen Type	IHC	Flow DNA	Flow Immunophenotyping**	Bone Marrow Morphology	Molecular/NGS	Cytogenetics/FISH	Storage & Transportation
<b>Peripheral Blood</b>		Green-top 3-7 mL <sup>4</sup>	Green-top (preferred), Lavender-top, Yellow-top: 3-7 mL <sup>4</sup> (CLL-MRD: 20 ml)	2 air-dried unstained smears preferred  Lavender-top 3-5 mL for special studies as needed	Lavender-top (preferred), green-top (sodium heparin) <sup>1</sup> (minimum 1 ml) or yellow top	Green-top 5-10 mL <sup>4</sup>	Room temperature, transport with cold pack <sup>2</sup>
<b>Fixed Bone Marrow Biopsy (Formalin) Core and/or Clot</b>	1-2 cm (length) <sup>3</sup> We can accept a block for IHC requests	Paraffin-embedded 0.2 x 0.2 x 0.2 cm		1-2 cm (length) in 10% formalin (10x formalin volume to specimen volume with fresh smear)	Non-decalcified tissue preferred	1-2 cm (length); li for FISH, non-decalcified tissue only	Room temperature, transport with cold pack <sup>2</sup>
<b>Fresh Bone Marrow Core Biopsy</b>		RPMI <sup>1</sup> 1-2 cm (length)	RPMI <sup>1</sup> 1-2 cm (length)	1-2 cm (length) in 10% NBF		RPMI <sup>1</sup> 1-2 cm (length)	Room temperature, transport with cold pack <sup>2</sup>
<b>Bone Marrow Aspirate***</b>		Green-top 2-3 mL <sup>4</sup>	Green-top, lavender-top (EDTA) tube, or yellow-top (ACD) tube: 2-3 mL <sup>4</sup>	5-10 smears/slides <sup>4</sup> 2-5 mL Bilateral if for staging of lymphoma	Lavender-top preferred, green-top (sodium heparin) tube, yellow-top (ACD-A) tube (minimum 1 ml)	Green-top 2-3 mL <sup>4</sup>	Room temperature, transport with cold pack <sup>2</sup>
<b>Fine Needle Aspirate (FNA)</b>		RPMI <sup>1</sup> 2 mL	RPMI <sup>1</sup> 2 mL		RPMI <sup>1</sup> 2 mL	RPMI <sup>1</sup> 2 mL	Room temperature, transport with cold pack <sup>2</sup>
<b>Fresh Tissue Biopsy</b>	RPMI <sup>1</sup> 2 pieces minimum 0.2 x 0.2 x 0.2 cm	RPMI <sup>1</sup> 2 pieces minimum 0.2 x 0.2 x 0.2 cm	RPMI <sup>1</sup> 2 pieces minimum 0.2 x 0.2 x 0.2 cm		RPMI <sup>1</sup> 2 pieces minimum 0.2 x 0.2 x 0.2 cm	RPMI <sup>1</sup> 2 pieces minimum 0.2 x 0.2 x 0.2 cm	Room temperature, transport with cold pack <sup>2</sup>
<b>Frozen Tissue Biopsy</b>		Snap frozen, minimum 0.5 x 0.5 x 0.5 cm					(-)20° C, ship on minimum 10 lbs. dry ice
<b>Formalin-Fixed Paraffin-Embedded Block (FFPE) with Corresponding H&amp;E</b>	0.2 x 0.2 x 0.2 cm tissue 10% neutral-buffered formalin	0.2 x 0.2 x 0.2 cm tissue Non-decalcified tissue preferred			Minimum 0.2 x 0.2 x 0.2 cm tissue; non-decalcified tissue only; refer to individual test requirements <sup>6</sup>	Minimum 0.2 x 0.2 x 0.2 cm tissue; if for FISH, non-decalcified tissue only	Room temperature, transport with cold pack <sup>2</sup>
<b>Unstained Slides from FFPE Block</b>	Precut charged slides in 5 micron sections; minimum 2 slides per antibody; refer to individual test requirements for number of slides				Slides in 5 micron sections; refer to individual test requirements for number of slides	Slides in 4-5 micron sections; minimum 5 slides per test (FISH only)	
<b>Cerebral Spinal Fluid (CSF)</b>			Sterile container, RPMI strongly preferred			Sterile container	Room temperature, transport with cold pack <sup>2</sup>
<b>Body Fluids</b>	Sterile container with adequate cellularity 10-20 mL	Sterile container with 1:1 dilution of RPMI; 10-20 mL; submit specimen within 24 hrs. to optimize viability	Sterile container with 1:1 dilution of RPMI; 2 mL body fluid tube. Large volumes of body fluids should be concentrated to <5 mL; 0.5 to 1.0 cm <sup>3</sup> fresh tissue; Lavender-top (EDTA body fluids) tube. Submit specimen within 24 hrs to optimize viability		Sterile container with adequate cellularity 10-20 mL	Sterile container with adequate cellularity 10-20 mL; submit specimen within 24 hrs. to optimize viability	Room temperature, transport with cold pack <sup>2</sup>
<b>Urine</b>						UroVysion®; 33 mL urine + 17 mL preservative	Refrigerate, transport with cold pack <sup>2</sup>

\*\* Flow: After the bone marrow/peripheral blood is drawn, please prepare a smear and provide CBC results along with the samples.

\*\*\* Bone Marrow Aspirate: Provide tightly capped container with no exposure to formalin fumes.

<sup>4</sup> Sodium heparin is required; lithium heparin is unacceptable.

- Green-top = Sodium heparin<sup>5</sup>
- Lavender-top = EDTA<sup>5</sup>
- Yellow-top = ACD-A<sup>5</sup>
- Sterile container
- RPMI = pink/orange culture media

1. Caution: Do not use RPMI when it turns cloudy, yellow or is at or beyond the expiration date; use only pink/orange color RPMI.
2. Be sure cold pack is not in direct contact with the specimen during transport.
3. IHC may be performed after tissue/cells have been fixed and processed into a paraffin block.
4. Flow DNA and Flow Immunophenotyping: Sodium heparin is the preferred anticoagulant, if not available, testing can be performed on a lavender-top (EDTA).
5. Please check anticoagulant expiration date prior to collecting specimen; do not use expired collection tubes.
6. MSI: Both normal and tumor tissue are required for MSI (PCR); peripheral blood may be substituted for normal tissue.

