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POSTED-LIS LTR

Specimen Collection Manual-Body Fluid Criteria

Specimen Type	Patient Prep.	Collection Containers	Handing Instructions
HEMATOLOGY			
CSF	None	CSF will be collected into sterile, numbered tubes. The cell count and differential shall be performed on tube #2, unless otherwise specified by the physician.	Due to lysis, cell counts on the CSF should be performed as soon as possible. If a delay is necessary, refrigeration will slow down the cellular lysis.
Miscellaneous Body Fluid	None	**Do Not Submit Specimen in a Syringe** Ideally collected in a purple top EDTA tube, Green top (non-Gel) heparin tube is also acceptable. If specimen is received in a syringe transfer to a purple top EDTA tube.	If fluid can not be examined immediately it should be refrigerated at 2 - 8 º C.
Pericardial	None	**Do Not Submit Specimen in a Syringe** Ideally collected in a purple top EDTA tube, Green top (non-Gel) heparin tube is also acceptable. If specimen is received in a syringe transfer to a purple top EDTA tube.	If fluid can not be examined immediately it should be refrigerated at 2 - 8 º C.
Peritoneal	None	**Do Not Submit Specimen in a Syringe** Ideally collected in a purple top EDTA tube, Green top (non-Gel) heparin tube is also acceptable. If specimen is received in a syringe transfer to a purple top EDTA tube.	If fluid can not be examined immediately it should be refrigerated at 2 - 8 º C.
Pleural	None	**Do Not Submit Specimen in a Syringe** Ideally collected in a purple top EDTA tube, Green top (non-Gel) heparin tube is also acceptable. If specimen is received in a syringe transfer to a purple top EDTA tube.	If fluid can not be examined immediately it should be refrigerated at 2 - 8 º C.
Synovial Fluid	None	**Do Not Submit Specimen in a Syringe** Ideally collected in a purple top EDTA tube, Green top (non-Gel) heparin tube is also acceptable. If specimen is received in a syringe transfer to a purple top EDTA tube.	If fluid can not be examined immediately it should be refrigerated at 2 - 8 º C.
Body Fluid Crystals	None	**Do Not Submit Specimen in a Syringe** Ideally collected in a purple top EDTA tube, Green top (non-Gel) heparin tube is also acceptable. If specimen is received in a syringe transfer to a purple top EDTA tube.	Should be done right away to avoid false positive and false negative results
CHEMISTRY			
CSF	None	CSF will be collected into sterile, numbered tubes. The Chemistry testing shall performed on Tube #1 unless otherwise specified by the physician.	No special requirements for refrigeration.
Miscellaneous Body Fluid	None	**Do Not Submit Specimen in a Syringe** Ideally collected in a red top plain clot tube with no preservative, or a green top (non-gel) heparin tube. If a pH is to be performed the specimen should be kept as anaerobic as possible. If collected in a syringe transfer to a plain red top tube.	No special requirements for refrigeration.
Pericardial	None	**Do Not Submit Specimen in a Syringe** Ideally collected in a red top plain clot tube with no preservative, or a green top (non-gel) heparin tube. If a pH is to be performed the specimen should be kept as anaerobic as possible. If collected in a syringe transfer to a plain red top tube.	No special requirements for refrigeration.
Peritoneal	None	**Do Not Submit Specimen in a Syringe** Ideally collected in a red top plain clot tube with no preservative, or a green top (non-gel) heparin tube. If a pH is to be performed the specimen should be kept as anaerobic as possible. If collected in a syringe transfer to a plain red top tube.	No special requirements for refrigeration.
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CYTOLOGY			
Pleural, peritoneal, pericardial, Body cavity washings(e.g. pelvic peritoneal washings, ovarian cysts fluids, cul-de-sac and joint fluid.	Per Attending Doctor	Collection containers can vary widely, but the most common are 1 L Vacutainer glass bottles and 1 L plastic bags (they look like IV bags but they are made of heavier plastic). Smaller amounts of fluid in syringes (minus the needle), red top tubes, and 120 ml plastic container with a screw top lid (generally from surgery).	We recommend that no fixative should be added to body fluid specimens. Heparin may be added to prevent the fluid from clotting. It also acts as a short term preservative. If the body fluid is received early in the morning it can be refrigerated for an hour or two before processing to allow the fluid to cool and the heavier material to settle to the bottom of the container.
MICROBIOLOGY			
Sterile Body Fluid (Synovial, Serous, etc.)	Per Attending Doctor	Sterile Body Fluid Collection Packet	1. These fluids are collected by the physician through aseptic aspiration into sterile syringes. 2. Clean the tops of each tube in the packet with the Betadine and allow them to dry. 3. Transfer fluid from the syringe via needle into appropriate tubes using sterile technique. 4. Transport to the laboratory as soon as possible with the appropriate orders. 5. **DO NOT REFRIGERATE** these specimens prior to or during transport. 6. **DO NOT SEND SYRINGES WITH NEEDLES.** NOTE: See Sterile Body Fluid Protocol (LTR4063)