

Specimen Collection Manual
Outpatient Cytopathology Center
2400 Susannah Street
Johnson City, TN 37601
423-283-4734

Specimens Accepted

FNA smears and needle rinses

Surgical Biopsies

Skin, soft tissue, endometrial, cervical, vas deferens, POC, lip, oral mucosa, tongue, other small biopsy specimens, teeth

*Biopsies requiring immunofluorescence studies may also be ordered.

Urine for cytology

Breast nipple secretions for cytology

Scrape preparations

Patient Preparation

Per doctor's office procedure protocol.

Specimen Preparation

Smears (FNA, nipple secretion, touch preps),

1. Make direct smear onto glass slide.
2. Air dry slides
3. Alcohol or spray fixed slides

Urine: Submit fresh specimen in specimen cup not over 30 ml. Do not put in fixative. Refrigerate specimen until pick-up.

Cyst fluid: Submit fluid in syringe **without needle**, test tube or specimen cup. If transport is delayed over 2 hours, refrigerate specimen and/or place drop on slide and directly smear it and air dry.

Surgical Biopsy: Submit in 10% buffered formalin. Formalin/specimen volume ratio should be >10:1.

For biopsies requiring immunofluorescence studies, half of specimen is submitted in Michel's solution and half in 10% buffered formalin. Call OCC for detailed submission instructions.

Specimen Labeling and Requisitions

Slides:

1. Patient name
2. Patient's date of birth
3. Body site (i.e. right, left), organ.

Test tubes, syringes, specimen cups or formalin containers:

1. Patient's name
2. Date of birth
3. Body site
4. Providers name
5. Date of biopsy

OCC requisition (required fields)

Transport

1. Place specimen container in specimen transport bag.
2. Call OCC for local pick-up, supplies, and specific transport instructions (423-283-4734).
3. If mailing specimen, follow appropriate USPS regulations for diagnostic specimens.