

CYTOLOGY SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND SUBMISSION GUIDELINES
Quick Reference Chart

It is **REQUIRED** that all slides/tubes/bottles submitted be properly labeled with a patient name or identifier. All Specimens must also be accompanied with all appropriate paperwork containing tests ordered, patient history, demographics, and billing information.

Specimen Source	Submission Requirements	Preservative/Fixative Required	Storage Conditions
Body Fluids	30-50ml of specimen in a sterile container or Vacutainer. If a large quantity of fluid is collected, only 1 representative 50ml sample is necessary.	NO	Refrigerate
Bronchial Washing	Specimen in a sterile container with screw-cap lid	NO	Refrigerate
Bronchial Brushing	Prepare two smears, it is essential to fix them immediately to prevent air-drying artifact. Place brush in Cytolyt or 95% alcohol	95% EtOH or Cytolyt	Room Temperature
CSF	Specimen in a sterile conical tube with a screw top lid.	NO	Refrigerate
Sputum	Specimen in a sterile container with screw-cap lid fixed with Cytolyt or 95% alcohol.	95% EtOH or Cytolyt	Room Temperature / Refrigerate if no fixative is available
Urine	Specimen in a sterile container with screw-cap lid.	NO	Refrigerate
Nipple Discharge	Specimen smeared on a frosted end glass microscope slide (fix immediately)	95% alcohol or Spray fixative	Room Temperature
Fine Needle Aspirations	2-4 air-dried smears, 2-4 alcohol fixed smears, needle rinsed in Centrifuge tube containing Cytolyt fixative.	95% alcohol or Spray fixative for half of the slides submitted. Needle rinses submitted in Cytolyt	Room Temperature