

## Diagnostic Cytology sample requirements.

All requests should be made on the Cellular Pathology Request Form.

Samples should be sent to the Cytology Department as soon as possible after collection to minimise cellular deterioration.

Specimen type	Collection requirements/comments	Container	TaT	Overnight storage
Bronchial brush samples	Do not allow to air dry. Include site of brush sample on request form and slide (e.g. left lower lobe)	Alcohol-fixed slides + slide transport container	Within 1 week (unless marked urgent)	Room temp
Bronchial wash	Do not attach pre-printed label over the clear section of the container.	Plain 20mL Universal (white top)		4 °C (fridge)
CSF	Send immediately to Cytology Laboratory	Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	Within 2 days	No
Fine needle aspirate (FNA) breast, lymph node, thyroid, parotid, biliary etc	<b>Alcohol-fixed slides:</b> Fix immediately by fixation spray.  Please ensure slides are clearly marked as FIXED	Alcohol-fixed slides + slide transport container	Within 1 week	Room temp
Fine needle aspirate (FNA) breast, lymph node, thyroid, parotid, TBFNA etc	<b>Air dried slides.</b> Slides must be quickly and completely dried before placing in slide transport container.  Please ensure slides are clearly marked as AIR DRIED.	Air Dried slides + slide transport container	Within 1 week	Room temp
Fine needle aspirate (FNA) Needle rinse - thyroid	Wash needle in Cytospin collection fluid.  Available from Cytology Department.	Cytospin collection fluid	Within 1 week	Room temp
Fine needle aspirate (FNA) for cytology – endoscopic brushings	Place unsheathed brush tip in cytospin collection fluid.  Dry brushes CANNOT be accepted.	Cytospin collection fluid	Within 1 week	Room temp

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Fluids, ascitic, pleural, cyst aspirates, pericardial, peritoneal etc	Large volumes and drain bags are not acceptable.	Plain 20ml Universal (white top)	Within 1 week	4 °C (fridge)
Sputum	Detection rates of malignancy from sputum are very low  Early morning deep cough specimen	60ml (white top)	Within 1 week (unless marked urgent)	4 °C (fridge)
Synovial fluids	Samples for crystals are not accepted by the Cytology Department, and should be sent to Microbiology.	N/A	N/A	N/A
urine	Detection rates of malignancy from urine are very low. Urine samples are not suitable for haematuria pathway investigation First part of second voided sample.	Plain 20ml Universal (white top)	Within 1 week	4 °C (fridge)