

Cytology Specimens

Introduction

The acceptance of cytopathology as a current and valid discipline in medicine is largely due to the work of George N. Papanicolaou, MD. Papanicolaou began to publish material on the cytologic method and in 1928 suggested that this method was of value in the screening and diagnosis of cervical cancer. The use of cytology as a diagnostic tool may be applied to any organ or fluid from the body. The specimen may be exfoliated cells in a fluid such as urine, sputum, pleural, etc., or cells that have been more forcibly removed by a scraper, brush, or needle. These specimens would include both liquid based and conventional pap smears, specimens from endoscopic brushings, and fine needle aspirations. Sanford Health Pathology Clinic will only accept specimens from physicians or other persons authorized by law to submit specimens.

Specimen Labeling

NOTE: All primary specimen containers MUST be labeled with 2 identifiers at the time of collection. Submitted slides may be labeled with a single identifier, but 2 identifiers are preferred. Examples of acceptable identifiers include but are not limited to: patient name, date of birth, hospital number, requisition number, accession number, and unique random number. A location (e.g. hospital room number) is NOT an acceptable identifier.

Cytology supplies provided by SANFORD HEALTH PATHOLOGY CLINIC

- ThinPrep containers and collection devices
- Cytology requisitions
- Glass slides for conventional pap smears
- CytoLyt containers for non-gyn cytology specimens-including sputum
- Spray fixative
- Plastic/cardboard slide carriers
- Specimen transport bags

Requisition

Cytology specimens must be submitted with a properly filled-out cytology requisition in order to process the specimen. A separate cytology requisition should be submitted for each source/specimen site. If concurrent biopsy material is also submitted, it should be submitted with a corresponding histology requisition. The requisition contains an area for patient demographics (name, address, date of birth or age), social security number (optional), specimen collection date, submitting physician name, patient medical record or chart number, billing instructions and insurance information. The requisition also contains an area for the source and site of specimens as well as an area to request additional testing. Pertinent history and clinical information as it relates to the specimen should be provided using the following reference.

Gynecologic Specimens	Non-Gynecologic Specimens
<p>Date of LMP Pregnant or Post-Partum History of IUD Abnormal bleeding Recent intrauterine instrumentation Radiation therapy Endometriosis Polyps Visible lesion(s) DES exposure in utero Recent colposcopy or biopsy (provide diagnosis) Herpes HPV (condyloma) Hormone therapy/ birth control pills Previous abnormal cytology cases should provide: Date of previous abnormal Treatment Normal subsequent cytology cases</p>	<p>Clinical diagnosis and history History of cancer – type and location TB, liver cirrhosis, congestive heart failure, etc. Radiologic findings to date, suspected lesion Any systemic disease Dyspnea Hemoptysis Radiation therapy (date, reason and location) Drug therapy or other medications Hormone therapy Exposure to carcinogens Tobacco use (specify) Recent viral infections Unexplained, continued weight loss Occupation (if relevant) Past abnormal cytology</p>