

Bone Marrow Specimen Requirements

SCHEDULING:

Physicians Laboratory accepts bone marrows collected by physicians from outlying clinics and hospitals. Physicians Laboratory of Northwest Iowa clients wishing to schedule in-office bone marrows may call 1-800-584-7076 or 1-712-262-3795.

The following items are required when submitting bone marrow specimens to Physicians Laboratory:

REQUISITIONS:

SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS:

The bone marrow should generally consist of:

- Air-dried and unstained bone marrow aspirate smears and an air-dried peripheral blood smear
- Core biopsy and aspirate clot submitted in 10% buffered formalin
- A 2-5ml liquid marrow aspirate sample in sodium- heparin (dark green tube top) kept at room temperature
- **If the marrow is a dry tap**, perform gentle touch preps of a marrow core biopsy and submit an **additional** marrow core in RPMI solution.
- An accompanying CBC from within 24 hours of collection of the bone marrow and/or EDTA tube **is required**.

PACKAGING:

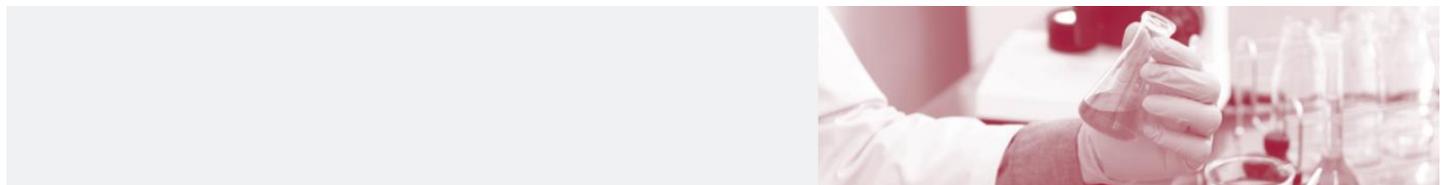
It is **vitaly important** to send the bone marrow aspirate smears in a separate bag from the formalin-fixed biopsy and clot specimens. Failure to do so can result in unreadable smears as the fumes can and do have an adverse effect on the cells.

Package the smears in the plastic slide containers and place in a biohazard bag and seal. Package the formalin jars containing the core and clot specimens and any tubes of blood into a **separate** biohazard bag. Paperwork/requisition may be placed in the outer pocket of either bag. Make sure all slides and containers are labeled with the patient's name. The two biohazard bags may be stapled together as long as they are separately sealed.

SPECIAL TESTS FOR BONE MARROWS – REQUIREMENTS

Flow cytometry, Chromosome Analysis, Molecular (FISH) Studies

Specimens collected for any of the above tests should be collected in a syringe containing 1 cc of heparin per 5ccs of marrow to prevent clotting. At least 2-3 ccs of specimen should be collected and then transferred to a sodium heparin tube. PL personnel will split the specimen if more than one test is ordered. Clearly label the tube with the patient's name, DOB, and the desired test(s).



Autopsy

Physicians Laboratory of Sioux Falls

All autopsy scheduling requests may be called to Client Services at PL at 1-605-322-7212. After hours, before 10 pm, the messaging service will page the on-call pathologist. Between 10pm and 6am a message will be taken and the call will be returned the following business day.

Autopsies requested by out-of-town hospitals must have the body transported to Avera McKennan Hospital.

Physicians Laboratory of Northwest Iowa

Autopsy scheduling requests during business hours (8-5) may be called to 712-262-3795. After hours leave a message and the call will be returned the next business day.

If the pathologist at PL of NWIA is out for an extended period the body will need to be transported to Avera McKennan Hospital. Notify security at Avera at 605-322-7490 and personnel will direct the driver where to go and escort them to the morgue. Also call PL Client Services at 605-322-7212 to notify the pathologist that a body will be coming for autopsy. If it is after hours Golden West will notify the pathologist on call.

REQUIREMENTS

The body must be accompanied by:

- ID wrist band or ID tag on the great toe or other written identification attached to the body (if the body is from a hospital)
- A signed Autopsy Consent Form if the autopsy is being requested by the family (a copy may be found in the documents section of the website under Forms in this Referral Guide)
- A signed Request for Autopsy Form if the autopsy is being requested by a physician (a copy may be found in the documents section of the website or under Forms in this Referral Guide)
- Original or copy of pertinent medical records and relevant history
- Request for special studies

A preliminary report will be given two working days. A final written report will follow.

Charges for autopsies will either be billed to the family or the physician's facility depending upon the ordering party. Questions about billing may be directed to Client Services at 605-322-7212. Physicians Laboratory does not perform forensic or legal autopsies.

