



8 INSTRUCTIONS FOR TRANSPORTATION OF SPECIMENS

8.1 Histology Specimens

- Histology specimens must be placed in plastic leak proof specimen containers. Lids must be secured and checked to ensure no leakage. The container must be labelled with an appropriate safety label indicating that it contains a Histology specimen and 10% Neutral Buffered Formalin.
- Small containers can be placed in a clear plastic specimen bags and sealed, and the accompanying request form placed in the side pocket separate from the specimen. Larger containers can be placed in larger bags and sealed, and the accompanying request form can be placed in a clear plastic specimen bag and put inside the larger bag with the specimen. It **must not** be stapled to the bag.
- The specimens can then be placed in the Yellow Pathology/Histology Specimen transport bags ready for delivery to the laboratory.
- If on QEH site the samples are transported to the laboratory via the hospital portering service.

8.2 Non-Gynaecological Cytology Specimens

- Non-gynaecological cytology specimens must be placed in leak proof specimen containers (Maximum volume 60ml). Lids must be secured and checked to ensure no leakage. See individual sample types for appropriate collection containers.
- The container must be fully labelled as detailed in Section 6. The sample containers are placed in clear plastic specimen bags and sealed, and the accompanying request form placed in the side pocket separate from the specimen. It **must not** be stapled to the bag.
- The specimens can then be placed in the Yellow Pathology/Histology Specimen transport bags ready for delivery to the laboratory.
- If on QEH site the samples are transported to the laboratory via the hospital portering service.

8.3 Cervical Cytology Specimens

ThinPrep LBC is the method of cervical cell sample preparation. Samples are collected in using a brush-like device. The head of the device is broken off into a vial of preservative fluid so that all of the cervical cells are retained. Samples are transported to the laboratory where they are mixed to disperse the cells. Cellular debris, such as blood or mucus, is removed and a thin layer of cervical cells is deposited on a microscope slide, which is then stained.

- Cervical cytology specimens must be transferred from the sampling device into the ThinPrep vial using “smash and bash technique”. The sampling device **must not** be retained in the vial. The lid must be tightened to the black torque line and checked to ensure no leakage.
- The container must be fully labelled as detailed in Section 6. The sample containers are placed in clear plastic specimen bags and sealed, and the accompanying request form placed in the side pocket separate from the specimen. It **must not** be stapled to the bag.



- The specimens can then be placed in the pink Cytology Specimen transport bags ready for delivery to the laboratory and the Cytology tracking form must be completed, samples counted and the tracking form placed into the pink transport bag before sealing.
- If on QEH site the samples are transported to the laboratory via the hospital portering service.

8.4 Semen Analysis - Post Vasectomy

- Patients must only use the pre-weighed and toxicity tested plastic topped sterile 60 ml container provided by their consultant or GP.
- The semen sample should be produced at home, the patients must collect their entire ejaculate by masturbation into provided sample container and delivered to the laboratory within one hour of production, and kept as near to body temperature as possible during transit.
- The sample must be received with a completed PVSA Patient Information Form. This form is essential to ensure that all recommendations required for testing and clearance have been met in accordance with The ABA and The BAS Guidelines 2016.
- see Andrology section 9.7.2

8.5 Semen Analysis - Infertility

- By appointment only see Andrology section 9.7.1