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| **Specimen Type** | **Appropriate Specimens** | **Container** |
| Body Fluids   * Ascitic * Pleural * Pericardial * Peritoneal * Pancreatic Cyst Fluids * Ovarian Cyst Fluids   ***PLEASE NOTE THAT CELL COUNTS ARE NO LONGER PERFORMED*** | * Please send in at least 25ml of fluid – 50ml if possible. | 25 ml sterile universal container  [Description: http://t0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcQrnbvle9T6dkz0EbhCMUAKTUQ5ZGFdo2mFlNS4F3nzRuidm2FUTlN3pqds](http://www.google.co.uk/url?q=http://www.medlinescientific.com/en/virtuemart/laboratory-supplies-and-consumables/sample-containers/30ml-universal-container-with-printed-label-polypropylene-detail&sa=U&ei=kQlaVJuxPObV7gaUwIGYDw&ved=0CCYQ9QEwCA&usg=AFQjCNGL-fXp-T0kvyJqWiPhU9XfwpIemQ) |
| Breast Cyst Fluid | **Send only if blood stained** | 25 ml sterile universal container |
| Breast Fine Needle Aspirates | * Prepare two fixed slides as directed by laboratory personnel * Rinse needle in preservcyt solution   \*If not trained in slide spreading, please just send in needle rinse\* | Slides must be labelled in pencil with name and date of birth/unit number  Needle Wash  10 ml preservcyt in 25 ml sterile universal container |
| Bronchial Brushes | * Brush is sent to laboratory   ***PLEASE DO NOT PREPARE SLIDES*** | Vial of 10ml cytorich red |
| Bronchial Washes | * Add wash to universal and top up with cytorich red – ensure at least 50% of fluid is cytorich red. | 25 ml sterile universal container containing cytorich red |
| Bronchoalveolar Lavage | * Add wash to small universal and send immediately –   \*Please state on form whether the identification of fat-laden or haemosiderin-laden macrophages is required\* | 25ml sterile universal container |
| CSF | * Please send to laboratory immediately after taking specimen * If the specimen is taken outside of normal laboratory hours the specimen must be refrigerated | Small glass vial or 25ml sterile universal container |
| Fine Needle Aspirates | * Prepare one fixed and one air-dried   slide as directed by laboratory personnel   * For Thyroid specimens, rinse needle in phosphate buffered saline * All others rinse needle in preservcyt solution | Slides must be labelled in pencil with name and date of birth/unit number  Needle Wash  10 ml preservcyt or phosphate buffered saline in 25 ml sterile universal container |
| Gastrointestinal Tract material | * Brush is sent to laboratory   ***PLEASE DO NOT PREPARE SLIDES*** | 10 ml of phosphate buffered saline OR cytorich red in 25 ml sterile universal container |
| Pancreatic FNA | * Rinse needle in cytorich red | Vial of 10ml cytorich red or 10ml cytorich red in sterile universal container |
| Sputum | * Deep cough early in the morning prior to brushing teeth or eating breakfast * Specimens should be taken on 3 consecutive days. | Sputum pot  [Description: http://t2.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcQnXDu1Nm8vlj8LSNu8J7IGTagNd9fRkglGoOrA4gzOt0Ry1nuFx_lNww](http://www.google.co.uk/url?q=http://www.cwmicrobiology.nhs.uk/lab/Sampling/sputum.html&sa=U&ei=nwxaVKaLKqiU7QaBzYGgAQ&ved=0CCwQ9QEwCw&usg=AFQjCNGfLfW9WzxmSZJAwcdTm3MGzhy_HA) |
| ***\*PLEASE NOTE: Sputum specimens should not be sent for the diagnosis of PCPs\**** | | |
| Urine | * Freshly voided specimen preferably mid-morning * Avoid early morning urine as the cells will appear degenerate and interpretation will be difficult/non diagnostic * Avoid catheter specimens * If catheter specimen cannot be avoided, please note on request form | 25 ml sterile universal container |