












Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine  
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## Body Fluid Specimen Collection Guide: (excluding CSF)

Test	Container	Comments
<b>BF Cell Count (WBC, RBC) and Diff</b>	Lavender K2EDTA tube,  or Dark Green Sodium Heparin tube  Add minimum 1 mL sample to tube	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add fluid immediately upon collection</li> <li>• Mix by inverting tube slowly 8 times to prevent clotting</li> </ul>
<b>BF Crystals</b>	Dark Green Sodium Heparin tube  Add minimum 1 mL sample to tube	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add fluid immediately upon collection</li> <li>• Mix by inverting tube slowly 8 times to prevent clotting</li> </ul>
<b>Chemistry tests</b>	Plain Red top tube or Gold top SST   Add minimum 2 mL sample to tube	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use sterile container for larger volumes</li> </ul>
<b>Fluid pH</b>	Heparinized syringe, Minimum 0.5 mL in syringe, no air, or Dark Green Sodium Heparin  Minimum 1 mL sample to tube	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect anaerobically</li> <li>• <b>Keep on ice until testing is performed</b></li> <li>• Must be analyzed within 1 hour</li> </ul>
<b>Fluid Culture AFB Culture Fungal Culture</b>	Sterile container  or Plain Red top tube  Add minimum 1-2 mL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultures are performed at Women and Infants Microbiology Lab ext. 41191</li> </ul>
<b>Cytology</b>	Sterile container  (2) cups full or ¾ full is preferred.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accompany specimen with completed <b>Cytology Requisition Form</b></li> <li>• <b>Label specimen container</b> with 2 patient identifiers and specimen source</li> <li>• Deliver to Kent Main Lab immediately or refrigerate if transport is delayed</li> </ul>