

Peripheral Blood Smear Collection Guidelines



SPECIMEN COLLECTION:

1. Collect an EDTA (lavender top tube) specimen via venipuncture. Label the tube with the patient's name and one additional unique patient identifier (date of birth, medical record number, or accession number).
2. Place a precleaned microscopic slide on a flat surface. Using a disposable dropper or applicator stick, place a small drop of blood on the slide just below the frosted end.
3. Using another glass slide as a "spreader", place it in front of the drop of blood making sure to keep the spreader slide at a 30 to 45-degree angle.
4. Gently pull the spreader slide into the drop of blood.
5. As soon as the blood begins to spread toward the edges of the slide, gently push forward with the spreader slide in a smooth, even motion spreading the blood across the length of the slide. It is not necessary to apply pressure.
6. Verify that the smear is uniform with a feathered edge.
7. Using an ordinary lead pencil, label the slide with the patient's name and one additional unique patient identifier (date of birth, medical record number, or accession number). Please do not label the slide with patient stickers, ink pens or markers (Sharpie marker).
8. Repeat steps 2-7.
9. Allow the smears to air dry in a horizontal position.
10. Place the slides into a cardboard slide holder.
11. Complete the pathology test requisition with the following information:
 - Patient's full name. Note of any name change in the last five years is also helpful for retrieving previous patient records.
 - Patient's date of birth.
 - Patient's medical record number.
 - Specimen source as "peripheral blood smear".
 - Ordering clinician and submitting facility.
 - Date and time of specimen collection.
 - Clinical indication and history relating to the submitted specimen.
12. Attach to the requisition, a copy of the most recent CBC results, any other pertinent lab results, and the patient's demographic/insurance information sheet. If the peripheral smear is collected in an outpatient setting on a Medicare or Medicare replacement plan, please also attach a completed Advanced Beneficiary Notice.
13. Place holder with slides and EDTA tube, if available, in a biohazard bag and seal.
14. Place the requisition and attached documents in the outside pocket of the biohazard bag.
15. Place the specimen in the appropriate area for PSL courier pick-up.

Contact Us

If you have any questions or need more information, contact Histology at Pathology Services Laboratory by phone at 479-968-6781 or 1-800-874-4904 or by email at PSLab@pathologyserviceslab.com.