

# Cytology Specimen Collection

Pocono Medical Center's Cytology / Pathology laboratory is dedicated in processing all cytology specimen with accurate, reliable results. In order to have an adequate sample, it is important to collect the cytology (non gynecological or non Pap smears) specimen correctly. This will guarantee and provide an adequate number of diagnostic cells in the specimen.

The Cytology / Pathology laboratory recommends that specimen(s) being prepared in the clinician's office (FNAB or Gastrointestinal Tract) should have the presence of a Cytotechnologist or Pathologist for rapid assessment. This will ensure that the specimen is adequate for evaluation and the patient will not have to redo the procedure again.

Cytology Specimen Requisition is required to accompany all specimens when delivering to the laboratory. There is required information needed when completing a requisition form. This information can be found on the *Cytology Specimen Requisition* page.

There are specific guidelines that are recommended by the, *American Society of Cytopathology*, *American Society of Clinical Pathologist (ASCP)* and *American Society of Cytotechnologist* in collecting cytology specimen for the following specimens:

- Respiratory
  - Sputum
  - Bronchoalveolar Lavage
  - Bronchial Brushings / Washings
- Fluids
  - Serous (Pleural, Peritoneal, Pericardial)
  - Body Cavity Washings
  - Nipple Discharge
- Urine
- Cerebral Spinal Fluid
- Gastrointestinal Tract
  - Oral / Anal
  - Esophagus, Stomach, Small Bowel, Colon, Common Bile Duct
- Skin
- Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy
  - Lymph Node, Thyroid, Liver, Breast, Soft Tissue, Bone, Kidney, ect...
    - Palpable (superficial sites) and deep localized organs (CT & ultrasound guided)

Each will have specific instructions to follow when collecting the specimen. Any questions should be directed to the Pocono Medical Center's Cytology / Pathology laboratory. A Pathologist is always available to answer any questions

Cytology Reports are guaranteed in 2 business days. The reports are generally sent out 1 business day after receiving the specimen. However, if any special staining or technique is required, the report may take longer than 2 business days. Clinicians will be notified of any delays by a phone call and/or letter.