# Bone Marrow Specimen Handling and Transport

## Patient Identification and Specimen Labeling
- Specimens must be labeled in adherence to the Specimen / Requisition Label Policy located on the Intranet under Pathology/Laboratory Policies and Procedures.
- Specimens are accepted only from physicians or other persons authorized under law.

## Requisitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requisition</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bone Marrow Request Form</td>
<td>Required for all bone marrow aspirates submitted for morphology; top half of the requisition must be completed by ordering caregiver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Genetics Lab Requisition</td>
<td>Required for all patient samples submitted for cytogenetics testing. Form must be completed by ordering caregiver. Specimen type should be noted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oncology-Hematology-BMT Flow Cytometry and Molecular Diagnostics Labs Requisition</td>
<td>Required for all patient samples submitted for flow cytometry or molecular testing; must be completed by ordering caregiver. Specimen type should be noted.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surgical Pathology Request Form</td>
<td>Required for all bone marrow biopsies submitted to lab; must be completed by the ordering caregiver</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Specimen Handling and Transport

### General Requirements
- Specimens must be labeled in adherence to the Patient Identification and Specimen Labeling policies located on the Intranet
- Specimens are only accepted from physicians or other persons authorized under law.
- Bone Marrow review and interpretation should be complete within 2 working days after specimen receipt, as a standard practice.

### Bone Marrow Aspirate

#### Specimen Collection
- Morphology:
  - 1-3mL, EDTA tube, mix well
  - Heparinized specimens will only be used if EDTA is not available; heparin can interfere with morphology evaluation
- Chromosome Analysis:
  - 2-3mL bone marrow in sodium heparin tube
- Molecular Diagnostics:
  - 1-3mL, EDTA tube
- Flow Cytometry:
  - 1-3mL EDTA preferred
  - Heparinized bone marrow is acceptable
Specimen Handling and Transport
- Specimen should be stored at room temperature
- Specimen must be received in the laboratory, as soon as possible, but no later than 8 hours after collection
- Specimen should be transported at room temperature
- Completed Bone Marrow Request Form must accompany the specimen.
- Any additional test requests require special forms.

Bone Marrow Biopsy
Specimen Collection
Specimen must be placed in B Plus Fixative (supplied by lab)

Specimen Handling and Transport
- Specimen should be stored at room temperature
- Specimen must be received in the laboratory, as soon as possible, but no later than 8 hours after collection
- Specimen should be transported at room temperature
- Completed Surgical Pathology Request Form must accompany the specimen.