

NCSU FLOW CYTOMETRY - GUIDE TO SAMPLE SUBMISSION

Sample submission requirements:

Presenting Complaint	Sample Type To Submit	Sample Collection Container
Lymphadenopathy	Lymph node aspirate	Tube with saline
Lymphocytosis	Blood	EDTA tube
Bone Marrow Disorder	Bone marrow aspirate	EDTA tube
Mass	Aspirate	Tube with saline
Effusion	Fluid	EDTA tube
CSF	CSF	EDTA tube

Collection and Shipping Information:

Refrigerate sample immediately after collection. Please send sample with a cold pack (No dry ice) making sure the sample cannot freeze.

We recommend shipping **standard overnight**. Please **do not** use the US Postal Service.

Please **do not** send samples so that they arrive on Saturday, Sunday or holidays.

Samples collected on Friday should be refrigerated over the weekend and sent out with a cold pack on Monday.

If an **aspirate** sample must be collected on a **Friday**, we recommend making a 5% serum solution with the patient's blood. For example, if you originally added 2ml of saline to the aspirate add 0.1ml of the patient's serum.

Typical turnaround time, for the flow cytometry results, is 24-48 hours after receipt of the sample.

Samples with Low Cellularity:

Some samples (e.g. CSF) may not have enough cells to run flow. In some cases, we can determine this prior to starting the assays. However, often we do not know until we have completed the assay and begun to analyze the results. In these cases, the costs to run the sample are already incurred and the non-diagnostic sample will be billed to the clinic.