

Acceptable Containers for Body Fluid Specimens

Acceptable Containers for Hematology Body Fluids

Fluid Type	Preferred Container	Acceptable Alternative
Serous Fluids (Pleural, Peritoneal, Pericardial)	Preservative free Sterile cup Preservative free sterile tube	EDTA tube
Bronchoalveolar Lavage/Wash	Sterile cup Sterile conical tube	None
Synovial Fluid	Syringe 1 EDTA tube <i>and</i> Lithium Heparin tubes	Sterile cup or tube with no additive
Cerebrospinal Fluid	If 4 CSF tubes received: Tube #4 If 3 CSF tubes received: Tube #3 Preservative free sterile cup (shunt)	None

Acceptable Containers for Microbiology Body Fluids

Fluid Type	Preferred Container	Acceptable Alternative
Serous Fluids (Pleural, Peritoneal, Pericardial)	Preservative free sterile cup	None
Bronchoalveolar Lavage/Wash	Preservative free sterile cup	None
Synovial Fluid	Syringe, needle removed, capped Preservative free sterile cup	None
Cerebrospinal Fluid	If 4 CSF tubes received: Tube #3 If 3 CSF tubes received: Tube #2 Preservative free sterile cup (shunt) Syringe, needle removed, capped	None

Acceptable Containers for Chemistry Body Fluids

Fluid Type	Preferred Container	Acceptable Alternative
Serous Fluids (Pleural, Peritoneal, Pericardial)	Sterile cup Sterile conical tube	Cup or tube with no additive
Cerebrospinal Fluid	If 4 CSF tubes received: Tube #2 If 3 CSF tubes received: Tube #1	Cup or tube