Diagnostic
Pathology
Medical
Group, Inc.

BREAST CYTOLOGY
SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

Breast Aspiration: Fluid

If the specimen will be picked up by a courier:
- Send fluid in fresh state. Do not use a preservative of any kind. The specimen can be sent in a clean specimen container or in a syringe. If sending a syringe, remove the needle and cap the syringe to prevent leakage.

If the specimen is being mailed in:
- Add the fluid to a vial of Preservcyt
- Fed Ex overnight, using cool packs when the weather is hot

Breast Aspiration: Smear/Slide Preparation
- Use a clean glass slide with a frosted end.
- Label the slide with the patient's name and site of aspiration.
- Spread the aspirated material evenly across 2/3 of the slide.
- Air dry the slide. ***Do not spray fix the slide.***
- Place the slide(s) in a PAP smear/slide container.

Nipple Discharge: Slide Preparation
- Use a clean glass slide with a frosted end.
- Label the slide with the patient's name and "Nipple Discharge".
- Spread the discharge evenly across 2/3 of the slide.
- Spray fixative on the slide. Use the same fixative as used for PAP smears.
- Place the slide(s) in a PAP smear/slide container.

For all specimens above:
- Fill out the DPMG cytology requisition, including the following information:
  - patient's date of birth
  - patient's unique identification number (SS or medical record number)
  - physician's address
  - phone number and FAX number
  - cc doctor(s)
  - clinical history
  - special instructions, as applicable
  - insurance information

Without the necessary information, we are unable to process the specimens in an expeditious manner. We may call you for verification, and in some instances, we may return the specimen to you for proper labeling. This is necessary to assure that the service we provide for your patients is of the most accurate and excellent quality we can provide.

- Place the specimen and requisition in the plastic DPMG bag provided. There are separate pockets for the paperwork and the specimen.