

<b>Specimen Type:</b>	<b>Body Fluid</b> <i>Pleural (thoracic), Peritoneal (ascites), Pericardial, Cyst, and Synovial</i>
<i>Patient Preparation:</i>	As ordered by M.D.
<i>Specimen Collection:</i>	To keep body cavity fluids uniformly suspended, 3-5 IU of heparin per mL may be added to the collection container before the specimen is introduced. The addition of heparin prevents clotting in the collected specimen, which renders cytologic processing difficult.
<i>Specimen Requirements:</i>	1 mL to 2 mL minimum; 20 mL to 50 mL preferred. Submit fresh or in cytology fixative. For large fluid collections from fluid or peritoneal taps, a well-mixed aliquot of 50 mL to 200 mL is preferred.
<i>Handling/Transport:</i>	If submitted fresh, submit to laboratory immediately, refrigerate if delayed. Transport of liter bags or bottles of body fluid material can be a biohazard problem and should be handled with care.

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