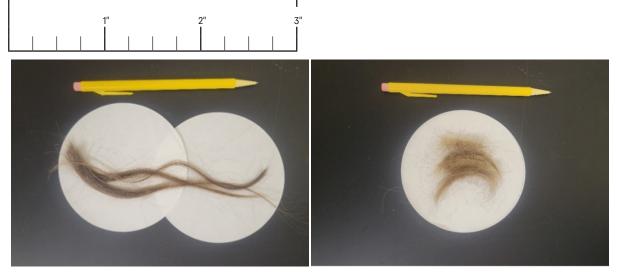
# Hair

MAYO CLINIC \_ABORATORIES

Quantity: Three inches of head hair, approximately 0.5 g. Typically, this is the length of an index finger and width of a pencil.



Examples of 0.5 g of different hair types and lengths.

### **Collection Instructions:**

- 1. Gather a lock of hair the width of the pencil from the back of head.
- 2. Cut hair near scalp, cutting at least 3 inches. **Do not** cut scalp or pull hair from scalp. If hair is shorter than 3 inches long, a greater width of hair may be needed.



Cut hair at near scalp, even if total length is greater than 3 inches

- 3. Place hair in hair container provided.
  - **Note:** Head hair is the preferred specimen. If head hair is not available, pubic, beard, mustache, or chest hair is acceptable if enough quantity can be obtained. **Beard trimmings or razor clippings are not acceptable.**
- 4. Indicate patient name, a second identifier (medical record number, accession number, or date of birth), and source of hair on outside of container.
- 5. Place container in biohazard bag provided and close securely.
- 6. Indicate testing needed and send appropriate paperwork.
- 7. Send specimen at ambient temperature.

#### **Cautions:**

- Do not trim down hair after cutting from scalp-include the full length once cut.
- **Do not** apply tape to hair.
- **Do not** place hair in same container as nails.
- If both hair and nail testing is wanted, each specimen type must be placed under a separate order.

## Nails

**Quantity:** 0.5 g clippings should be taken for all 10 nails.

### **Collection Instructions:**

- 1. Cut all 10 nails, either fingernails or toenails.
- 2. Place nails in nail container provided.
- 3. Indicate patient name, a second identifier (medical record number, accession number, or date of birth), and source of nails on outside of container.
- 4. Place container in biohazard bag provided and close securely.
- 5. Indicate testing needed and send appropriate paperwork.
- 6. Send specimen at ambient temperature.

### **Cautions:**

- Do not place nails in same container as hair.
- Nails must be free of polish or testing will be canceled.
- If both hair and nail testing is wanted, each specimen type must be placed under a separate order.