



## Hair

**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**

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**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.