

Notification Date: December 2, 2025 Effective Date: December 2, 2025

B-Cell Lymphoblastic Leukemia Monitoring, Measurable/Minimal Residual Disease Detection, Flow Cytometry, Varies

Test ID: BALLM

Explanation: On the effective date, sodium heparin will no longer be an acceptable anticoagulant for whole blood specimens. Additionally, smear slides are no longer requested for either whole blood or bone marrow.

Current Specimen Required

Submit only 1 of the following specimens:

Specimen Type: Whole blood

Container/Tube:

Preferred: Yellow top (ACD solution A or B)

Acceptable: Lavender top (EDTA), green top (sodium

heparin)

Specimen Volume: 6 mL

Slides: If possible, include 5 to 10 unstained blood smears labeled with 2 **unique** identifiers

Collection Instructions:

1. Send whole blood specimen in original tube. **Do not aliquot**.

2. Label specimen as blood.

Specimen Type: Bone marrow

Container/Tube:

Preferred: Yellow top (ACD solution A or B)

Acceptable: Lavender top (EDTA), green top (sodium

heparin)

Specimen Volume: 6 mL

Slides: If possible, include 5 to 10 unstained bone marrow aspirate smears labeled with 2 **unique** identifiers

Collection Instructions:

- 1. Submission of bilateral specimens is not required.
- 2. Send bone marrow specimen in original tube. **Do not aliquot**.
- 3. Label specimen as bone marrow.

New Specimen Required

Submit only 1 of the following specimens:

Specimen Type: Whole blood

Container/Tube:

Preferred: Yellow top (ACD solution A or B)

Acceptable: Lavender top (EDTA)

Specimen Volume: 6 mL Collection Instructions:

1. Send whole blood specimen in original tube. **Do not**

aliquot

2. Label specimen as blood.

Specimen Type: Bone marrow

Container/Tube:

Preferred: Yellow top (ACD solution A or B)

Acceptable: Lavender top (EDTA), green top (sodium

heparin)

Specimen Volume: 6 mL Collection Instructions:

- 1. Submission of bilateral specimens is not required.
- 2. Send bone marrow specimen in original tube. **Do**

not aliquot

3. Label specimen as bone marrow.

Questions

Contact Melissa Lonzo, Laboratory Resource Coordinator at 800-533-1710.