GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF AMNIOTIC FLUID SPECIMENS

Peace-of-Mind & Chain-of-Custody Guidelines for Medical Staff

If you have any questions, call 02-381-5410 or 092-516-7656 or email thailand@ptclabs.com

A. Arranging for Analysis

Notify PTC Laboratories of the date and time of the scheduled amniocentesis procedure by calling 02-381-5410 or 092-516-7656 or email thailand@ptclabs.com. We can arrange for pick-up of the specimens.

B. Collection

1. Aspirate amniotic fluid using a sterile Becton-Dickinson (BD) 10 ml syringe. Some other brands of syringes have been found to be toxic to amniotic fluid cells.
2. We recommend that the first 2-3 ml be collected in a separate syringe, clearly labeled "First Draw" and discarded. This "First Draw" may contain some maternal cells trapped within the needle during insertion.
3. After changing syringes, collect a minimum of 6 ml of amniotic fluid. We will not accept bloody specimens.
4. DO NOT transport in syringes. Aseptically transfer the amniotic fluid into a sterile conical centrifuge tube with a screw top to ensure limited exposure of the fluid to the syringes used for collection. Do not transfer the specimen to sterile glass tubes (i.e. Vacutainers) since the amniotic fluid cells in the specimen preferentially adhere to glass.
5. The tube must be labeled with the patient’s full Name and Date of Birth.
6. Place a copy of the tube label on the Specimen Collection Form supplied.
7. Pack the tube into the supplied PTC Amnio Transport Kit, following the instructions included.
8. Fill out the Specimen Collection Form for each specimen, making sure that ALL parties sign. If possible, please include a copy of the hospital report for the amniocentesis procedure.
9. For Legal cases only: Under no circumstances should the patient be left alone with or allowed to handle their own specimens. Specimens must remain with the doctor until time of collection.

C. Transportation

1. For Non-Legal Cases only: Specimens may be transported by the patient to PTC Laboratories.
2. For Legal cases only: Under no circumstances should the patient be given their own samples. Specimens should remain with the doctor or nurse until the time of collection.
3. Specimens must be received at PTC Laboratories within 48 hours of collection.
4. While waiting for pick-up, keep the specimen at room temperature (between 18-24 °C) and away from direct light. DO NOT FREEZE. We will not accept frozen specimens.