

Thyroid FNA collection for Afirma genomic testing

1. Complete Afirma requisition
 - a) Fill out requisition **completely**. Be sure to include:
 - Location and size of nodule(s) (see requisition section 4).
 - Name and fax number for any physician wanting a copy of the Afirma report (see requisition section 8).
2. Label FNAprotect tube(s)
 - a) Label one tube for each nodule (see requisition section 4).
 - Write the patient's initials on the 4 labels located underneath the nodule location on the requisition. The numbers on the labels match the number on the requisition (see requisition top, middle).
 - Affix the first label, marked 1, to the tube collected from the corresponding location.
 - Affix the second label, marked 2, to the cytopathology requisition to link the FNA slides to the Afirma sample.
 - Repeat steps i – iii for each nodule biopsied.
3. Collect sample

***Note:** *An adequately cellular cytology specimen with a diagnosis of atypical or suspicious is required for genomic testing by Afirma. Therefore, collection of 6 total passes is recommended.*

 - a) Pass 1:
 - Make two smears (air dry one and fix one in 95% alcohol) for cytopathology then rinse needle into FNAprotect tube
 - b) Passes 2 and 3:
 - Rinse the entire pass into the same tube.

***Note:** *Do not rinse bloody (no more than in the hub of the needle) specimens into the tube. Collecting staff should communicate to performing physician that passes 2 and 3 should not be aspirated (collected with a syringe attached to the needle).*

 - c) Additional passes (recommend 6 total passes):
 - For each pass make two smears (air dry one and fix one in 95% alcohol) for cytopathology then rinse the needle into same tube.
 - d) Repeat steps a - c for each additional nodule biopsied (collect 1 tube per nodule).

***Note:** *If sampling yields a significant volume of cyst fluid or blood (more than should go into the Afirma tubes) then any excess can be collected in formalin rather than extra slides. In that event this extra material will be used to make a cell block.*
4. Mix sample:
 - a) Invert each tube 3 times.
5. Freeze sample
 - a) Store tubes frozen at -20°C (in a no frost freezer) or at -80°C.
6. Send sample to RMH laboratory
 - a) Send cytopathology sample as usual.
 - b) Send Afirma FNAprotect tube frozen (please label: "Keep Frozen", to alert RMH couriers).
 - **Important!** *Include completed Afirma requisition and a copy of the front and back of the patient's insurance card.*