

## Sample Requirements

For cases of uncertain origin/ possible sample mix up please send:

1. Fresh tissue or paraffin sections (10x10um) from the block of uncertain origin.
2. Blood, tissue or paraffin sections known to be derived from the patient/s involved.

NB: The most reliable sample for this purpose is a fresh blood sample from the patient/s.

Please wear gloves to process all blocks for identity testing.

Please clean the area surrounding the microtome, the blade and the front and back of the blade holder, prior to processing each block.

Please send paraffin-embedded samples in an Eppendorf tube (available from the Molecular Genetics laboratory) labeled with name, date of birth and block number.

### **Example 1: Is Block A from patient 1 or patient 2?**

Please send:

1. 10 x 10um sections from block A
2. A sample from patient 1 for comparison with block A.
3. A sample from patient 2 for comparison with block A

Blood, tissue or paraffin sections may be sent for comparison. However, a fresh blood sample from each patient is the most reliable sample for this purpose.

### **Example 2: Have blocks C and D been mixed up?**

Is block C from patient C or is it from patient D and vice versa?

Please send:

1. 10 x 10um sections from blocks C and D
2. A sample known to be derived from patient C and patient D (preferably fresh blood).

### **Example 3: For “floaters”:**

Please send:

1. Paraffin sections (10 × 10um sections) from the main specimen within the block WITHOUT FLOATER.
2. Macro dissected FLOATER ONLY in paraffin.

NB: If macro dissection is not possible please send Paraffin sections (10 × 10um) from the whole block. However, please note this assay can only reliably detect a secondary DNA sample, such as a “floater”, in a background of genomic DNA when present at a level of approximately 10% or greater.

**Please send samples by first class post or courier.** Packaging should comply with UN3373 regulations for packaging and transportation of samples (See Table A4 in [‘Biological agents: managing the risks in laboratories and healthcare premises’](#):

1. The sample should be wrapped in enough tissue to absorb the entire contents of the tube in the event of a breakage.
2. Seal the tissue with tape and place it into a specimen bag and seal.
3. Samples should then be placed in a sample box or padded envelope along with a copy of the referral information and the package marked ‘Pathological Specimen – Fragile With Care’.

### **Laboratory address:**

Department of Molecular  
Genetics RILD level 3  
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust  
Barrack Road  
Exeter, EX2 5DW

### **High Risk samples:**

It should be noted that blood samples from patients who are likely to be Hepatitis B antigen or HIV positive, who have infectious hepatitis or who are jaundiced without obvious cause are potentially dangerous to all who handle them. Blood from febrile, undiagnosed patients, especially from abroad, may also be dangerous. Great care should be observed when submitting these samples for laboratory investigations, with strict adherence to the recognised methods of handling, particularly:

1. Forms and sample bottles must be clearly marked with a warning sticker
2. The samples must be sealed within two plastic bags.
3. The accompanying form must not come into contact with the sample