

COMMON PRINCIPLES

- Each formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded (FFPE) block should be prepared according to industry standards (for example, fix tissue in 10% neutral-buffered formalin for 6–72 hours).
- Tumor content:
 - For next-generation sequencing (NGS): The number of cells required is 40,000 tumor cells per specimen and the specimen must have tumor content > 20% AND a tissue area > 5 mm².
 - For immunohistochemistry (IHC): The number of cells required is 100 viable tumor cells.
- Each FFPE block should be < 5 years old, preferably from the most recent procedure.
- We only accept bone samples that are decalcified in EDTA.
- For NGS: We accept cell blocks (and slides sectioned from them) and liquid-based cytology slides (preferably ThinPrep and SurePath methods).

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS IF AVAILABLE:

- Pathology report
- Gross description of the FFPE block specifying anatomical features
- Microscopic descriptions for surgical and biopsy specimen(s)
- Descriptions and results of additional tests (IHC, flow cytometry, etc.)

REQUIREMENTS:

UNSTAINED SLIDES

- Each unstained FFPE slide must have an unbaked 4 µm section on a positively charged slide. Make sequential sections; label all slides with the slice number (№ 1 from the top, etc.) and ID of the sectioned block.
- For NGS: **10** unstained slides + 1 H&E slide.
- For IHC: 1 additional unstained slide for PD-L1 and 4 additional unstained slides for dMMR.

BLOCKS

- 1 FFPE block (resections, core-needle biopsies, cell blocks*).
- *Cell blocks are not accepted for IHC testing.

SHIPPING:

1. Label containers with at least 2 patient identifiers (name, DOB, MRN) and the date of collection using the provided stickers.
2. Place the FFPE block or slides in the provided plastic container.
3. Place the containers into the biohazard bag with absorbent paper.
4. Check that all required fields in the provided form have been completed.
5. Insert supporting documentation in the side pocket of the provided plastic bag. Place it in the box.
6. Put the kit box in the provided FedEx bag with the prepaid shipping label.
7. Ship the specimen(s) via FedEx to the BostonGene Lab at 100 Beaver St, Waltham, MA, 02453.

Questions:

Email: clientservices@bostongene.com

T: +1 781-552-3131 (8:00am–5:00pm ET Monday–Friday).