

**CORRELATIVE SCIENCE PROCEDURE MANUAL**

**AFT-25: COMPARISON OF OPERATIVE TO MONITORING AND ENDOCRINE THERAPY (COMET) TRIAL FOR  
LOW RISK DCIS: A PHASE III PROSPECTIVE RANDOMIZED TRIAL**

VERSION: 2.0

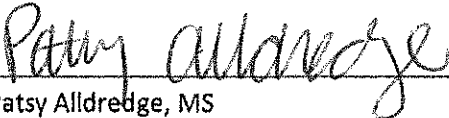
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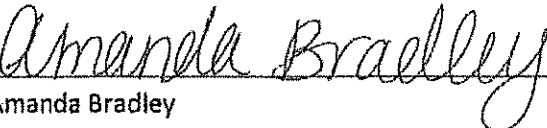
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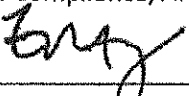
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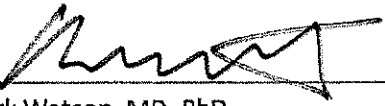
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## 1. PURPOSE

This document describes the procedures required for the collection, shipping, and processing of biospecimens from all patients enrolled or registered on AFT-25. This document also describes the procedures that will be followed subsequent to the receipt of biospecimens by the AFT Biorepository (AFB) (i.e., Siteman Cancer Center Tissue Procurement Core at Washington University) prior to their use for protocol-specified and future, unspecified correlative science research studies. This document should be used by staff involved with any aspect of the AFT-25 study biospecimen collection, processing, and submission, including staff at satellite institutions.

## 2. SCOPE

This document applies to all biospecimens collected specifically for the AFT-25 study only. Please refer to the study protocol-specific language for additional details regarding eligibility, participant enrollment, data submission, and specific procurement procedures. Please ensure that you are reading the most updated version of this document. This document may experience minor updates, revisions, and clarifications independent of a formal protocol amendment. The most recent version of this document can be found on the AFT BioMS web site which is accessible via the AFT portal: (<https://alliancefoundationtrials.org>)

## 3. CONTACT INFORMATION

- 3.1. Please send any questions and problems related to protocol administration, eligibility, patient registration, and data submission, to the AFT Project Manager at: [COMET@alliancefoundationtrials.org](mailto:COMET@alliancefoundationtrials.org) or 1-617-525-9942.
- 3.2. For specific questions about kits or shipments, please contact the Siteman Cancer Center Tissue Procurement Core at: 1-314-454-7615 or [tbank@wudosis.wustl.edu](mailto:tbank@wudosis.wustl.edu).
- 3.3. For questions about using the AFT BioMS web application for ordering kits, or registering and shipping biospecimens, please contact: 1-855-642-4667 or [aftbiomshelp@email.wustl.edu](mailto:aftbiomshelp@email.wustl.edu)
- 3.4. For any other questions about biospecimen procurement and shipping procedures, please contact the AFB Program Manager at: 1-314-747-4402 or [afbhelp@email.wustl.edu](mailto:afbhelp@email.wustl.edu)

## 4. SITE PREPARATION

- 4.1. Please refer to the AFT-25 protocol for any specific requirements related to patient enrollment, registration, and regulatory compliance.
- 4.2. The AFT BioMS application is used for both requesting biospecimen collection kits and for logging the collection and shipment of biospecimens to the AFT Biorepository. For training and assistance in using the AFT BioMS application, please see the AFT BioMS web site which is accessible via the AFT portal: <https://alliancefoundationtrials.org> or contact the AFT BioMS Help desk at: [aftbiomshelp@email.wustl.edu](mailto:aftbiomshelp@email.wustl.edu) or 1-855-642-4667.
- 4.3. Prior to collection of biospecimens, a biospecimen collection kit must be at the collection site. Please see section 6 for requesting biospecimen collection kits. Please allow at least 10 working days to receive the collection kit.
- 4.4. Please confirm that your institutional pathology department will release a tumor tissue paraffin block or will be willing to submit tissue section slides from such a block, at the required time

point designated in this document and in the study protocol. An institution whose pathology department is unwilling to comply with tumor block or slide submission should not enroll patients to this study.

## 5. COLLECTION SCHEMA

The following biospecimens are to be collected at each of the time points specified below. Please refer to individual collection kit instructions, biospecimen collection and processing methods, and specific shipping procedures below

Time Point	Kit Type	Biospecimen	Quantity	Collection / Processing Method	Shipping	Notes
Screen	A	Fixed tissue block	1	Fixed tissue blocks (8.1)	Ambient	1, 2
Screen	A	Unstained tumor tissue slides	20	Fixed tissue slides (8.2)	Ambient	1, 2
Screen	A	Whole blood (EDTA tube)	8 ml	Whole blood (9.2)	Ambient	2
Screen	A	Whole blood (BCT tube)	2 x 8 ml	Plasma for cfDNA (9.1)	Ambient	2
Progression	A	Fixed tissue block	1	Fixed tissue blocks (8.1)	Ambient	3
Progression	A	Unstained tumor tissue slides	20	Fixed tissue slides (8.2)	Ambient	3
Progression	A	Whole blood (EDTA tube)	8 ml	Whole blood (9.2)	Ambient	
Progression	A	Whole blood (BCT tube)	2 x 8 ml	Plasma for cfDNA (9.1)	Ambient	

### NOTES:

1. Submit either a representative fixed tissue block OR 20 unstained slides from the diagnostic core biopsy of primary DCIS disease, or first surgical resection specimen for those patients who enter the study after initial resection. **Block submission is strongly preferred.**
2. Specimen may be collected up to 4 weeks after registration.
3. Submit either a representative fixed tissue block OR 20 unstained slides from the surgical resection specimen of invasive cancer, for those patients with progression to invasive disease. **Block submission is strongly preferred.**

## 6. BIOSPECIMEN COLLECTION KITS

- 6.1. To facilitate the proper collection and shipping of all biospecimens, biospecimen collection kits and materials will be provided. The cost of the kit and shipping the kit to the site will be paid for. A pre-paid FedEx waybill is provided for shipping the kit with the biospecimens back to the AFB at Washington University in St. Louis via priority overnight shipping.
- 6.2. Kits should be requested at least 10 working days in advance of the anticipated collection date. As many as 2 kits can be requested at one time. Since many of the collection materials (vacutainer tubes) have expiration dates, do not request kits more than 90 days prior to their anticipated use. **All kits must be requested using the AFT BioMS system.**

- 6.3. This protocol uses a single kit (“A”) for biospecimen collection at all time points. Kit contents and specific instructions for use of the kit are provided in the kit box and are available for download on the AFT BioMS webpage which is accessible via the AFT portal: <https://alliancefoundationtrials.org>. **Please return any used collection materials with the kit.**
- 6.4. Once a kit is received, **do not discard the outer cardboard overwrap**. The kit, containing biospecimens, is to be shipped back in the same box.
- 6.5. Please return all components of the kit, regardless of whether they have been used or not. Kits and kit components are recycled when possible, minimizing the kit cost.
- 6.6. Well in advance of collecting biospecimens, inspect the biospecimen collection kit to ensure that all components are present and not expired, particularly if the kit has been onsite for longer than 30 days.
- 6.7. Note that individual kit components that are expired, damaged, or missing cannot be replaced. The remedy is to order a complete, new kit. (Please note in your request that you are replacing an expired or damaged kit).
- 6.8. Please return all kits that have expired or missing components. Return the ENTIRE kit using the pre-paid FedEx waybill provided. **DO NOT DISCARD** kits that have missing or expired components. Recycling kits keeps the cost of kit materials to a minimum. Please note that all out-going and in coming kits are tracked, and sites that have requested many more kits than they have returned will be charged for non-returned kits.
- 6.9. If a biospecimen collection component (e.g. vacutainer collection tube) is missing, damaged, or expired, the institution may substitute a like-kind collection tube from their own supply. However, note that while some kit components are generic (EDTA tubes) others are highly specialized and probably are not available at the institution.
  - 6.9.1. Note that protocol requirements are based on blood volumes, not tube sizes. If the protocol requires the collection of 8 cc of whole blood, generally a 10 cc tube is provided in the kit for convenience. If desirable or necessary to collect 8 cc in 3 x 3 cc tubes (for example), that is permissible.
- 6.10. Please see **Section 10 – Biospecimen Shipping** for specific instructions on packaging biospecimens into the shipping kit for shipment to AFB.

## 7. BIOSPECIMEN LABELING AND TRACKING

- 7.1. All research biospecimens (vacutainer tubes) **MUST** be labeled with the participant study number and patient initials (Last, First, Middle). Blood tubes should additionally be labeled with the date and time of collection.
- 7.2. Surgical pathology tissue blocks should not be labeled in any manner. The institutional surgical pathology number (e.g. “S16-1234”) and the individual block identifier (e.g., “A3”) should be readable on the block. If tissue sections are being submitted instead of the block, each tissue section slide should be labeled with the patient study number, the institutional block ID, and the serial section number (1, 2, 3, etc.). Provide a **de-identified** copy of the surgical pathology report, labeled only with the participant study number, corresponding to the blocks or slides submitted. See section 8 for additional details.

- 7.3. Label all containers and vials with an indelible, solvent-resistant marker when they are at ambient temperature. Do not try to label frozen vials.
- 7.4. Do not affix any labels to vials, slides, or tubes. Label the collection containers directly with a marking pen.
- 7.5. All biospecimens that are collected and sent to the AFT biorepository (AFB) **must be logged and tracked in AFT BioMS**. The AFT BioMS system is a web-based application that tracks the collection and shipping of biospecimens. Once individual biospecimens are logged and 'shipped' in the AFT BioMS system, a packing manifest will be created by the system. This manifest must be printed out and must accompany all biospecimen shipments. To become familiar with the AFT BioMS system and for further information about training, access, and use, please contact the AFT BioMS Help desk at: 1-855-642-4667 or [aftbiomshelp@email.wustl.edu](mailto:aftbiomshelp@email.wustl.edu). Note that the AFT BioMS system is similar to but independent of the NCI BioMS application, which is used to manage biospecimens collected on NCI NCTN Alliance trials.
- 7.6. In the event that AFT BioMS cannot be accessed, please complete an AFT BioMS specimen manifest form, which can found here-  
<https://cbmiapps.wustl.edu/confluence/display/AB/Forms>

## 8. TISSUE COLLECTION METHODS

### 8.1. Diagnostic Pathology Fixed Tissue Blocks

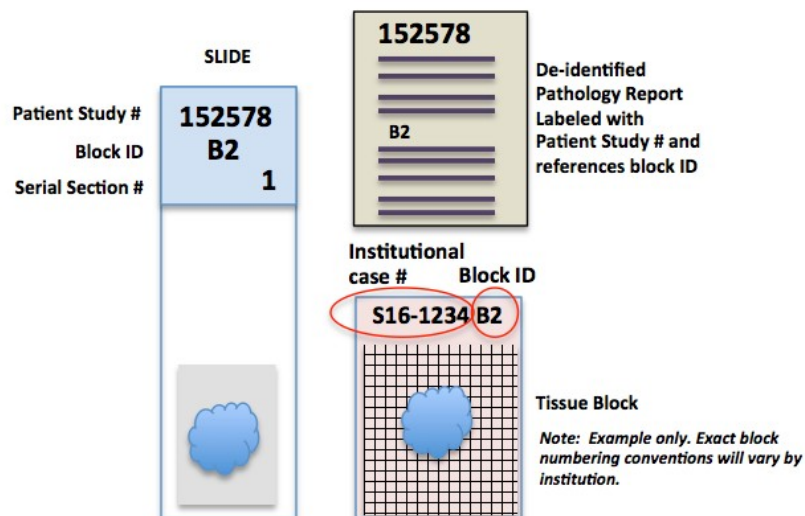
- 8.1.1. This protocol requires submission of ONE representative, diagnostic pathology, formalin fixed paraffin embedded (FFPE) tumor tissue block. Additionally, if available, ONE representative, diagnostic pathology, formalin fixed, paraffin embedded tumor tissue block from the surgical resection should also be sent, for those patients with progression to invasive disease.
- 8.1.2. Any clinical surgical pathology block that is submitted for research studies will not be exhausted or rendered unsuitable for future diagnostic use. Any clinical surgical pathology block that is submitted will be returned within ten working days of written request, when needed for clinical management or clinical trial enrollment for a specific patient. Otherwise, all blocks will be returned to the submitting institution when the correlative science study end points have been met.
- 8.1.3. In the event that an institution will not release a tumor tissue block, the institution may instead submit tissue sections, mounted and unstained to glass slides.

### 8.2. Unstained Slides from Diagnostic Fixed Tissue Blocks

- 8.2.1. In cases where institutions are unable or unwilling to submit the requested tissue block, a set of 20 unstained tissue slides may be sent as an alternative. Please follow the procedures below for submitting unstained tissue slides. If your pathology department is unwilling or unable to follow these tissue-sectioning instructions, please consider submission of a tissue block, which can be cut at the biorepository and returned to your institution at a later date.

# of slides	Section Thickness	Slide Type	Purpose
20	5 micron	Positively Charged	IHC and nucleic acid isolation

- 8.2.2. Serial, tissue sections should be cut fresh from the appropriate FFPE tissue block.
- 8.2.3. Cut sections at 5 micron thickness as indicated onto positively charged slides.
- 8.2.4. Ensure that each slide is labeled with the patient study number, the institutional block ID, and the slide serial section number (1, 2, 3, etc.).
- 8.2.5. Do not label slides with adhesive labels. Write or print information on the textured surface of the slide with indelible, solvent-resistant ink.
- 8.2.6. No adhesives or other additives should be used in the water bath.
- 8.2.7. Mount only one tissue section per slide. Make certain sections are placed on the painted / textured side of the slide.
- 8.2.8. When placing the sections onto the slides, ensure that the tissue is placed on the bottom third of the slide. Ensure that each serial section from the block is placed in the same orientation on each slide.
- 8.2.9. See figure below for proper mounting and labeling
- 8.2.10. Air dry slides for 12-24 hours prior to shipping. Do not oven dry slides.



- 8.2.11. Use the slide boxes provided in the kit for shipping slides. Slides should not be touching each other. Ensure that slides from only one patient are placed in one slide mailer.
- 8.2.12. Include a copy of a de-identified pathology report, labeled only with the patient study number with all slide submissions.

## 9. BLOOD COLLECTION METHODS

### 9.1. Plasma Nucleic Acid ( Streck ) Tube Processing

- 9.1.1. Collect 8 ml of blood into each of the Streck BCT tubes using standard venous phlebotomy. Invert tubes 10 times.
- 9.1.2. Store Streck tubes with whole blood at room temperature. Do not freeze or refrigerate the tubes. The tubes may be stored for up to 72 hours at ambient temperature before



shipment. Ensure that the Streck tubes are shipped at ambient temperature to avoid freezing.

## **9.2. Whole blood (EDTA Tube- no processing)**

9.2.1. Collect 8 ml of blood into the EDTA tube using standard venous phlebotomy. Invert tube 10 times.

9.2.2. Store EDTA tube with whole blood at 4 degrees Celsius (i.e. refrigerated) until shipping. Do not freeze the tube. The tube may be stored for up to 72 hours at refrigerated temperature before shipment (i.e. if blood must be collected on Friday, it should be stored at 4 degrees Celsius over the weekend until Monday shipment). Ensure that the EDTA tube is shipped at ambient temperature to avoid freezing.

## **10. BIOSPECIMEN SHIPPING**

**10.1.** All biospecimens should be shipped on the same day that they are collected (Monday – Thursday). Biospecimens must be received by the AFB within 24 hours of collection. If collected biospecimens cannot be shipped on the same day that they are collected (e.g. Friday – Saturday or Holiday collections), please contact the AFB Program Manager at 1-314- 747- 4402 for further instructions, at least 24 hours prior to anticipated collection

**10.2.** Please see the Directions for Use (DFU) document that is included in each kit, for specific directions on how to package and ship biospecimens. The DFU document is also available for download on the AFT BioMS webpage which is accessible via the AFT portal: (<https://alliancefoundationtrials.org>).

**10.3.** Place the original, completed copy of the AFT BioMS packing manifest and a copy of the de-identified surgical pathology report, labeled with the patient study number in the kit. **Do not send specimens without a completed AFT BioMS packing manifest or substitute “AFT BioMS Downtime Form.” Biospecimens cannot be accepted without this completed form.**

**10.4.** Close the cardboard carton overwrap and secure lid with packaging tape, one piece on each side and two pieces over the front flap.

**10.5.** Ship container for PRIORITY OVERNIGHT DELIVERY using the pre-paid FedEx waybill provided within the specimen collection kit. Ship to:

**AFT Biorepository  
c/o Siteman Cancer Center Tissue Procurement Core  
Washington University School of Medicine  
425 S. Euclid Ave.  
Room 5120  
St. Louis, MO  
63110-1005**

**10.6.** Do not ship on Friday, Saturday, Sunday or the day before a nationally recognized holiday.

**10.7.** Because paraffin tissue blocks or slides cut from such blocks may be requisitioned and received from the surgical pathology department at a different time than the day of procurement for other biospecimens, paraffin blocks or cut slides may be sent independently of other biospecimens, using the following guidelines:

- 10.7.1. There is no independent “kit” for the submission of paraffin blocks or slides. Use the slide mailers provided in “Kit A” to store and ship slides, if required.
- 10.7.2. Block and slides should be packaged to avoid breakage using a padded envelope or, preferably, a small Styrofoam container.
- 10.7.3. During warm weather months, paraffin slides and blocks should be shipped in an insulated container that contains a refrigerant pack, to avoid heat > 25 degrees C (77 degrees F) that may melt paraffin and damage blocks and slides.
- 10.7.4. Blocks and slides may be shipped for standard overnight delivery according to institutional policies and using the preferred vendor.

## **11. AFB BIOSPECIMEN RECEIPT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE MEASURES**

- 11.1.** All biospecimens will be shipped to and received by the AFT Biorepository at the Siteman Cancer Center Tissue Procurement Core (TPC), Washington University in St. Louis, a CAP-accredited biorepository.
- 11.2.** All biospecimens will be logged, associated, and tracked by the unique patient biopsy control number.
- 11.3.** Each individual biospecimen will receive and be physically labeled with a unique biospecimen identifier, associated with the biopsy control number in the TPC informatics system.
- 11.4.** Upon receipt, all physical biospecimens received will be reconciled with what is recorded on the AFT BioMS packing manifest. Any discrepancies noted will be communicated to the AFB Program Manager who will contact the submitting site for reconciliation.
- 11.5.** Upon receipt, any biospecimen received that is not in appropriate physical condition (broken vials, frozen samples that are thawed, ambient samples that are frozen) will be reported to the AFB Program Manager, who will contact the submitting site for reconciliation.
- 11.6.** Aliquoted biofluids will be stored under liquid nitrogen vapor.
- 11.7.** All biospecimens will remain in storage until additional processing or review is requested in writing by the appropriate protocol principal investigator.

## 12. DOCUMENT HISTORY

VERSION	DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGE	AUTHOR	EFFECTIVE DATE
2.0	Reformatted to AFT Template Updated contact information for AFT PM Updated contact information for AFB	PAA	18-June-2018
1.2	Updated shipping instructions to include pre-printed waybill Updated to direct sites to access AFT BioMS via portal Clarified tissue / slide / block submission requirements Updated blood volume requirements Fixed minor typos and grammar mistakes	PAA	08-Nov-2017
1.1	Clarified collection schedule; Minor corrections by ESH review	MAW	09-Jan-2017
1.0	New	MAW	23-Dec-2016