

FAQs

- Who can request specimens from the NCTC?

The NCTC is a resource made available to East Carolina University researchers, to support their cancer related research. Members of the Lineberger Cancer Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill may also request samples.

- What types of specimens can be requested?

The following specimens can be requested.

- Tissue (malignant, normal) from various organs
- Blood
- Plasma
- Serum
- Urine
- Saliva
- Other body fluids

Specimens available may be fresh, snap-frozen, or formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded. Special processing requests may be fulfilled after consultation with the tissue bank research specialist.

- Can tissue specimens be obtained directly from the operating room without being sent to the Pathology Department?

No. Tissue is procured only after the specimen has been examined by appropriate personnel in the Pathology Department and deemed appropriate for banking.

- How will I know when a tissue specimen is available?

The NCTC Research Specialist will notify the requestor that the specimen is available for pick-up after it has been examined by the Pathology Department, annotated with a NCTC code, and procured according to NCTC protocols. An itemized disbursement form will be signed by the investigator (or their designee) and a NCTC representative to document the receipt of all specimens distributed.

- What information will I need to provide to the Office of Research Integrity and Compliance (ORIC) for IRB determination?

You will need to provide the ORIC with your name, contact information, a brief summary of your study in layman terms, and the data points you plan to collect. The IRB will determine if your research meets the definition of 'human subject research.' You will not need to complete any forms on ePirate if the IRB determines your study qualifies as 'not human subject research' (NHRSR).

- What paperwork will need to be completed?

The NCTC Research Specialist will provide you with the appropriate NCTC Request and Research Agreement form based on the IRB determination for your study. This formal request includes the applicant's name and contact information, title and description of the research project, types and quantity of samples requested, method of storage, background information requested, account number for billing. Investigators and collaborators must agree to abide by policies and procedures of the NCTC and sign a letter of agreement for ethical conduct of their research that utilizes any specimen obtained from the facility.

- Do I need to submit extra paperwork if my request for services changes?

Yes. A separate Request and Research Agreement form and IRB determination will need to be submitted for each individual study and if you are requesting additional specimens and/or information.

- Does NCTC provide samples to anyone outside of ECU?

While individual investigators may collaborate with investigators at other institutions, the samples cannot be made available to non-ECU faculty and non-Lineberger investigators.

- Who should I contact if I have additional questions?

Questions may be directed to Dr. Nasreen Vohra (vohran@ecu.edu) or Robin B. Alligood (alligoodro18@ecu.edu) or by calling (252)744-5879.