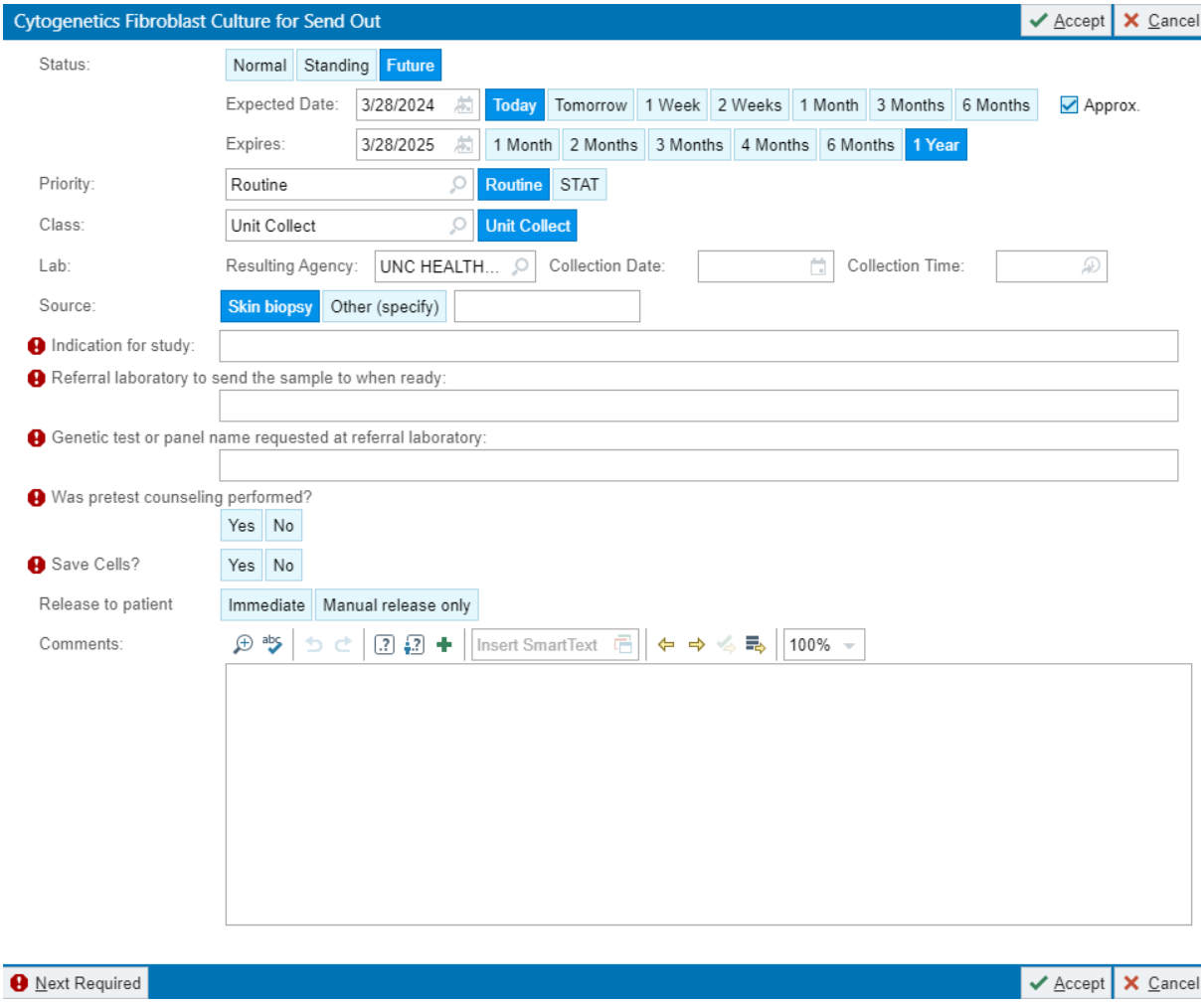
SKIN PUNCH BIOPSY ORDERING AND COLLECTION: EPIC ORDER LAB5555

This protocol can be used to order the collection of a skin biopsy and to coordinate send out of cultured fibroblasts to an outside referral laboratory.

Epic ordering: In Epic, click "add order" and search "LAB5555" for the order named "Cytogenetics Fibroblast Culture for Send Out". Click "accept". Questions regarding sample source, indication for study, referral laboratory, genetic test or panel name, pretest counseling, and saving cells are mandatory. Sign and collect the orders as normal in Epic.



Skin biopsy collection: Please use your department's procedure regarding the collection of skin biopsies if applicable. If necessary, instructions for the biopsy procedure are as follows: begin by cleaning the area to be biopsied thoroughly using several alcohol wipes. Avoid the use of betadine or any iodine-containing product. Administer a small amount of procaine under the skin to create a small lump for anesthesia. Then, using a sterile needle, lift the anesthetized skin and shave off a 3-4 mm piece of skin with a sterile scalpel. Alternatively, you can use a 3- or 4-mm punch. Lift the punch core with forceps or a needle and cut a piece of skin off with a sterile scalpel.

Deposit skin in a tube containing sterile culture medium ("Cytogenetics Specimen Collection Media For: Autopsy Specimens, POCs, Skin Biopsies"), and be sure the skin is submerged in media that has been fully thawed. Request media at least one business day in advance of any procedures, and keep media frozen or refrigerated until the day of the biopsy.

Need media or have any questions? Call the Cytogenetics Laboratory at (984) 974-1790 or email the laboratory genetic counseling team at LabGC@unchealth.unc.edu.