

ANCILLARY STUDIES BALLPARK BUDGET

by ECHO Laboratory Core

Version 2 (November'2025)



ANCILLARY STUDIES BALLPARK BUDGET

Contact the Laboratory Core at elvis_pub@vumc.org for further inquiries.

NOTE: The estimates provided here represent estimated costs provided for planning purposes only. It is NOT a binding quote or contractual offer. The actual cost per biospecimen may vary based on several factors, including but not limited to specimen type, processing specifications, date of service, location of shipping, and total quantity of biospecimens. Final pricing will be negotiated at the time of disbursement.

The ECHO Laboratory Core will provide a formal, itemized cost estimate for processing, handling, and shipping after receiving and reviewing a biospecimen request for a submitted ancillary study. Nothing in this disclaimer shall be interpreted as limiting or waiving any legal responsibilities, obligations, or requirements applicable to either party under applicable law or institutional policy. All ancillary studies-related activities at the ECHO Laboratory Core or Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) will be conducted in accordance with VUMC policies and norms.

Overall organization

There are several stages to the biospecimen provision process as part of ancillary studies.

- 1) Prior to Letter of Support request: These information below provides estimates on which investigators can base budgets to include in their requests.
- 2) After Letter of Support approval/prior to funding and ECHO X01 application: In this phase, the investigators should cooperate with the Laboratory Core to arrive at final pricing for their application budgets (subject to change based on financial climate at the time of sample provision).
- 3) After award: The Laboratory Core will work with the funded investigator to arrive at final costs at the time of sample provision.

This document provides guidelines for the first (#1) stage above. Finalization through to Stage #3 above will require revision of estimates based on shipping and sample pull costs at the time of funding. The requested specimens will be processed once the estimates are accepted, funds to cover the work are verified, and the Data and Resources Use Agreement (DUA) is executed.

Project Management Cost and Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) cost:

The Project management fees are \$5,000, and the MTA fees are \$3,500. Both fees must be remitted prior to the commencement of any Ancillary Study project and biospecimen access by the ancillary studies investigator, either from VUMC or outside VUMC. Upon receipt of the project management amount, Lab Core will initiate and process the investigator's pulling, handling, and shipping request.

The ECHO Laboratory Core requires full payment to be received before specimens will be shipped. If the requesting institution requires a purchase order, it can be attached to the requests. Payment instructions will be provided upon invoice generation. Payments are due within 30 calendar days from the date of the invoice. If you are sending a check, please include the invoice number and attach a copy of the invoice. All payments are accepted only in U.S. dollars (USD).

Biospecimen pulling, handling, and Shipping Estimated Costs

The tables below show costs that the ECHO Laboratory Core charges for pulling, processing, and shipping specimens (e.g., non-renewable specimens such as serum, plasma, urine, and tissue).

ANCILLARY STUDIES BALLPARK BUDGET by ECHO Laboratory Core

Version 2 (November'2025)



NOTE: Additional costs are incurred if the Laboratory Core must aliquot specimens.

Table 1. Cycle 1 Frozen Biospecimen pulling, handling and Shipping Costs

Specimen	Specimen Volume/weight	Cost (USD)
Blood	0.5 mL Whole Blood	35.27
Blood	1 mL Plasma	35.27
Blood	1 mL Serum	35.27
Blood	1.8 mL Red Blood Cell	35.27
Blood	120 uL Plasma	35.27
Blood	120 uL Serum	35.27
Blood	Buffy Coat	35.27
Blood	Whatman Card - 5 spots of 50 µL	62.82
Blood Spot	Whatman Card - 5 spots of 50 µL	62.82
Breast Milk	0.1 mL Colostrum	35.27
Breast Milk	1 mL Breast Milk	62.82
Breast Milk	8 mL Breast Milk	27.84
Breast Milk	Whatman Card - 5 spots of 50 µL	62.82
Cord Blood	0.5 mL Whole Blood	35.27
Cord Blood	1 mL Plasma	35.27
Cord Blood	1 mL Serum	35.27
Cord Blood	1.8 mL Red Blood Cell	35.27
Cord Blood	120 uL Plasma	35.27
Cord Blood	120 uL Serum	35.27
Cord Blood	Buffy Coat	35.27
Cord Blood	Whatman Card - 5 spots of 50 µL	62.82
Meconium/Stool	Meconium/Stool Tube	54.64
Meconium/Stool	Zymo DNA/RNA Shield Tube	45.95
Nasal Mucus	Nasal Mucus	38.38
Placenta	1 gram Placenta Tissue	35.27
Placenta	50 mg of Placenta Tissue	35.27
Saliva	Saliva	35.27
Urine	1.0 mL Urine	38.38
Urine	1.4 mL Urine	35.27
Urine	2.0 mL Urine	38.38
Urine	7.0 mL Urine	27.84

ANCILLARY STUDIES BALLPARK BUDGET by ECHO Laboratory Core

Version 2 (November'2025)



Table 2. Cycle 2 Frozen Biospecimen pulling, handling and Shipping Costs

Specimen	Specimen volume/weight	Cost (USD)
Blood	0.5 mL Whole Blood	7.70
Blood	1 mL Buffy Coat	7.70
Blood	1 mL Plasma	3.90
Blood	1 mL Serum	3.90
Blood	1.8 mL Red Blood Cell	7.70
Blood	200 µL Plasma	3.90
Blood	200 µL Serum	3.90
Blood	400 µL Plasma	3.90
Blood	400 µL Serum	3.90
Blood	Whole Blood Whatman Card	5.31
Blood Spot	Whole Blood Whatman Card	5.31
Cord Blood	0.5 mL Whole Blood	7.70
Cord Blood	1 mL Buffy Coat	7.70
Cord Blood	1 mL Plasma	3.90
Cord Blood	1 mL Serum	3.90
Cord Blood	1.8 mL Red Blood Cell	7.70
Cord Blood	200 µL Plasma	3.90
Cord Blood	200 µL Serum	3.90
Cord Blood	400 µL Plasma	3.90
Cord Blood	400 µL Serum	3.90
Cord Blood	Whole Blood Whatman Card	5.21
Placenta	50-100 mg flash-frozen tissue	7.70
Placenta	50-100 mg tissue with RNALater	7.70
Saliva	Saliva Collection	14.30
Stool	Fecal Tube	24.14
Stool	Zymo DNA/RNA Shield Tube	15.45
Urine	1.8 mL Urine	7.70
Urine	7.0 mL Urine	16.09

ANCILLARY STUDIES BALLPARK BUDGET
by ECHO Laboratory Core
 Version 2 (November'2025)



Table 3. Cycle 1. Ambient Specimen pulling, handling and Shipping Costs

Specimen	Specimen	Cost (USD)
Hair	Hair	39.05
Placenta	Placenta or Placenta Tissue fixed in formalin	213.94
Toenail	Toenail	39.05
Tooth	Tooth	16.21

Table 4. Cycle 2. Ambient Specimen pulling, handling and Shipping Costs

Specimen	Specimen	Cost (USD)
Hair	Hair	1.77
Tooth	Tooth	2.66

Cost of Shipping Specimens as per shipper size and weight

The ECHO Laboratory Core charges separately for shipping costs. Shipping costs are billed directly to the requesting institution’s shipping account (e.g., FedEx). The requester must provide a shipping account number for the Laboratory Core to bill the shipment. Courier costs may vary depending on the requester’s negotiated courier rates and the number of specimens included in the shipment.

Table 4 below provides information on common shipper types that can be used to estimate costs. Final costs will be determined at the time of shipment. The costs listed below represent the average cost of all existing biospecimens at the Laboratory Core. The maximum number of biospecimens included in each shipper type is also shown in the table. Three types of shippers are included: ambient (category B), dry ice (Agenta tubes), and dry ice (others). These three shippers cover all general shipping of existing biospecimens at the Laboratory Core. Additional details about the shippers are mentioned below.

ANCILLARY STUDIES BALLPARK BUDGET by ECHO Laboratory Core



Version 2 (November'2025)

Table 5. Shipper Types, size, weight and maximum number of specimen that can be packed per shipper

Shipper Type	Size (L x W x H) [inches]	Weight	Max # of Specimens
Ambient Category B	11 X 11 X 9"	4 LBS (1.81 KG)	1,000 Hair ¹ 1,000 Toenails ¹ 243 Teeth 72 Saliva ¹
Dry Ice Cycle 2 Azenta Aliquots	183/8 X 163/8 X 16 1/8"	40 LBS (18.2 KG)	1,536 1.0ml aliquots 768 1.9ml aliquots 192 7.6ml aliquots
Dry Ice Other	183/8 X 163/8 X 16 1/8"	40 LBS (18.2 KG)	128 Stool 1120 Whatman Cards 400 10ml Aliquots 392 3ml Aliquots 648 2.0ml Aliquots

The permutations and combinations of biospecimens per shipper may vary as per the demand of the investigator and project. The requested biospecimens will be packed accordingly and shipped by FEDEX as per the cost and locations on a particular date as shown in **Table 5**.

Table 6: Estimated Costs for shippers based on destination (to vary based on receiving institution rates)

Type of FEDEX	Unit Cost	IDC Cost	Per Unit	Per shipment	Shipment Cost
FedEx 2-Day (Local/Dry Ice)	\$25.00	\$18.75	1	1	\$43.75
FedEx 2-Day (Regional/Dry Ice)	\$25.00	\$18.75	1	1	\$43.75
FedEx 2-Day (National/Dry Ice)	\$80.00	\$60.00	1	1	\$140.00
FedEx 2-Day (Local/Ambient)	\$15.00	\$11.25	1	1	\$26.25
FedEx 2-Day (National/Ambient)	\$25.00	\$18.75	1	1	\$43.75

NOTE: FedEx costs are subject to change depending on time, location, and demand.

ANCILLARY STUDIES BALLPARK BUDGET
by ECHO Laboratory Core
Version 2 (November'2025)



Estimated Processing Times for Specimen Requests

Estimated processing times from the Laboratory Core once the specimen request has been routed are shown below. These are minimum time estimates; the time to complete requests may vary due to the complexity of selection, Cycle 1 (Fisher, non-automated storage) vs. Cycle 2 (BioStore electronically indexed) samples, specific processing requirement(s), and unanticipated discrepancies with vial labeling or volume reported.

Table 7: Delay in delivering the biospecimens, if aliquoting is required.

Number of Aliquots	Time (Business Days)	
	No Aliquoting Needed	Aliquoting Needed
Up to 100	15	18
101 to 250	18	21
251 to 500	21	25
501 to 1000	30	33
1001 to 2500	60	65

Note: The numbers reflected are only a best guess and will vary based on sample type and aliquoting volume.