

User Manual

Version 1.1 – UMFN4501



# Evercode™ Nuclei

## Fixation v4

### High-Throughput Workflow

For use with  
ECFN4501



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## Overview

### Workflow

From a single nuclei suspension, the Evercode Nuclei Fixation v4 kit generates fixed and permeabilized nuclei ready for use in the Evercode kits.

This high-throughput plate-based workflow enables more samples to be fixed in parallel, streamlining fixation when processing  $\geq 48$  samples at a time. Fixation maintains nuclei structure and prevents RNA degradation, which are crucial for downstream processing with Evercode split-pool combinatorial barcoding technology (Figure 1).

Because fixed samples are also stable for up to 6 months at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$ , Evercode Nuclei Fixation v4 provides flexibility by separating sample collection from library preparation. It also enables samples to be stored and batched after fixation so they can be processed through library preparation together, reducing the potential of batch effects.

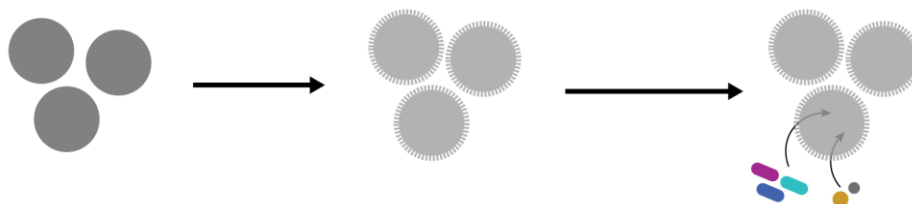


Figure 1: Evercode Nuclei Fixation v4. Nuclei in suspension are fixed and permeabilized before undergoing the split-pool combinatorial barcoding steps.

The figure below provides an overview of the fixation workflow. Between 100,000 and 1 million nuclei can be fixed in a single reaction. Note that more than 100,000 nuclei may need to be fixed to fully utilize the capacity of the downstream Evercode kits. See Important Guidelines for additional details.

This high-throughput plate-based workflow is designed for use with the Evercode™ Nuclei Fixation v4, HT 96 reactions kit when processing  $\geq 48$  samples across up to 2 fixation sessions. If the kit is to be used more than twice, the mid-throughput plate-fixation protocol should be used instead.

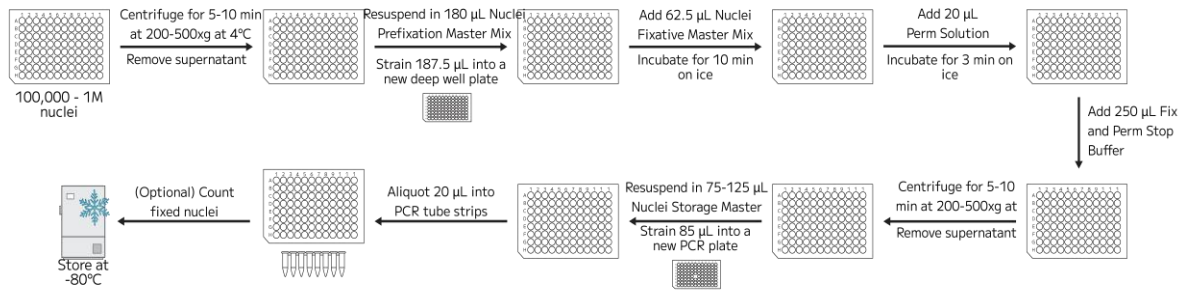


Figure 2: High-Throughput Plate-Based Fixation Evercode Nuclei Fixation v4 Workflow

## Protocol Timing

The table below provides details of the total and hands-on time required for the nuclei fixation workflow.

| SECTION                   | TOTAL TIME | HANDS-ON TIME | STOPPING POINTS  |
|---------------------------|------------|---------------|------------------|
| Section 1: Set Up         |            |               |                  |
| 1.1 Block plates with BSA | 65 min     | 5 min         | 4°C ≤ 1 month    |
| 1.2 Prepare Master Mixes  | 15 min     | 15 min        |                  |
| Section 2: Fixation       |            |               |                  |
| 2.1 Nuclei Fixation       | 60 min     | 60 min        | -80°C ≤ 6 months |

## Important Guidelines

These guidelines provide additional information to obtain optimal performance beyond the detailed instructions in the protocol. For additional questions not discussed below, please contact us at [support@parsebiosciences.com](mailto:support@parsebiosciences.com). We also have a library of additional resources and videos on our support site at <https://support.parsebiosciences.com/>.

### Sample Input

- This protocol begins with a previously prepared single nuclei suspension. We recommend suspensions with <5% aggregation/debris.
- If nuclei were previously frozen, ensure the suspension is completely thawed and in suspension before beginning fixation.
- We recommend minimizing the length of time between nuclei isolation and fixation, as it can negatively impact the results. Store the samples on ice the entire time.
- Between 100,000 and 1 million nuclei can be fixed in a single reaction. However, we recommend using the highest number available up to 1 million total. Exceeding 1 million nuclei in a single fixation will result in substantially elevated doublet rates.
- The minimum input into fixation should also be determined based on how the samples will be processed downstream. The table below provides guidance on the post-fixation concentrations needed for downstream kits. However, more or less sample input may be required depending on the exact experimental design. To accurately determine required post-fixation nuclei concentrations and volumes, reference the relevant [Sample Loading Table](#).
- Note that retention during fixation varies typically between 40-60%, and some nuclei will be lost when freezing and thawing fixed samples, typically between 5-15%. The final concentration of nuclei post-fixation is also influenced by the resuspension volume used in Section 2. These factors should all be considered when determining how much sample input is needed for fixation. **Refer to Appendices A1 and A2 for detailed cell number and concentration reference tables.**

### Avoiding RNase Contamination

- Standard precautions should be taken to avoid introducing RNases into samples or reagents throughout the workflow. Always wear proper laboratory gloves and use aseptic technique.

- Although RNases are not inactivated by ethanol or isopropanol, they are inactivated by products such as RNaseZap RNase Decontamination Solution (Thermo Fisher Scientific). These can be sprayed on benchtops and pipettes.
- Nuclease-free, filtered pipette tips should be used to reduce RNase contamination from pipettes.

### Plate Strainers

- An example video of using a Plate Strainer can be found in our support site. We recommend watching this video and practicing using Plate Strainers before processing your samples.
- After opening their plastic sleeves, Plate Strainers should be stored in their original plastic sleeve until use and used on the same day they were opened. We do not recommend using Plate Strainers more than one day after the plastic sleeve has been opened.
- Plate Strainers may need to be cut prior to processing samples. Plate Strainers should be cut with sterile scissors, razor blade, or scalpel that have been cleaned with RNaseZap RNase Decontamination Solution (Thermo Fisher Scientific) immediately prior to use.
- Plate Strainers should be thoroughly adhered to 96 well plates prior to use. After being placed by hand, a plate seal applicator should be used to completely seal the strainer over each well by pressing along the outside of the wells. The plate seal applicator should be cleaned with RNaseZap RNase Decontamination Solution (Thermo Fisher Scientific) immediately prior to use. Applicators should never be pressed directly onto the mesh.
- To maximize nuclei retention with Plate Strainers, press pipette tips directly against the mesh. Ensure ample pressure is applied to hold contact between the tip and the strainer to force liquid through in ~1 second.

### Nuclei Counting and Quality Assessment

- We recommend a hemocytometer for counting, but alternative counting devices can also be used. If possible, validate counts from alternative devices to a hemocytometer when first using Evercode Fixation v4 kits.
- We suggest saving images at each counting step, especially when first using Evercode Fixation v4 kits.
- To assess sample quality, we recommend using viability stains like trypan blue or acridine orange and propidium iodide (AO/PI).

- If using Acridine Orange/Propidium Iodide (AO/PI) stains, we suggest using the red (PI) channel to count to avoid the impact of any autofluorescence in the green (AO) channel.
- Examples of trypan blue stained fixed cells are shown below. High quality fixed samples have single distinct nuclei with <5% aggregation and no debris. Higher levels of aggregation will lead to elevated doublets after sequencing and may indicate a poor quality nuclei isolation. When quantifying fixed nuclei, it is critical to avoid counting debris to avoid overestimating the number of nuclei.

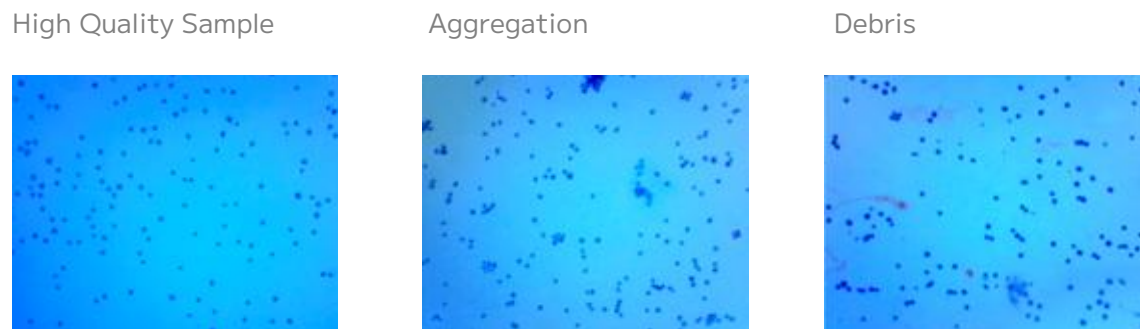


Figure 3: Example of trypan blue stained fixed cells.

### Centrifugation

- A range of centrifugation speeds and durations are given in this protocol rather than a single speed. When using Evercode Fixation v4 kits for the first time or when testing a new sample type, we recommend optimizing centrifugation conditions in 1.5 mL tubes before using the plate-based workflows. See the [tube-based protocol in our support site](#) which includes detailed optimization recommendations.
- A swinging bucket rotor should be used for all high-speed centrifugation steps in this protocol. The use of a fixed-angle rotor will lead to substantial nuclei loss.

### Maximizing Nuclei Recovery

- It is critical to thoroughly resuspend the nuclei after centrifugation throughout the protocol. Resuspend by slowly and repeatedly pipetting up and down until no clumps are visible. Ideally this should be verified with microscopy.
- To minimize nuclei loss from nuclei adherence to wells, carefully pipette up and down along the bottom and sides of plate's wells.
- We do not recommend wide bore pipette tips as they make it difficult to resuspend nuclei pellets adequately.

- When using Evercode Fixation v4 kits for the first few times, we recommend retaining the supernatants removed in Section 2, steps 9 and 29. In the unlikely event of very high sample loss, these supernatants can be analyzed to identify points for optimization.

### Removing Supernatant from Plates

- When using the plate-based Evercode Fixation v4 workflow for the first time, we recommend practicing removing liquid from deep well plates without disturbing the bottom of the well.
- When removing supernatant, keep the pipette tips along the side of the wells to avoid disturbing the pellets. After removing most of the supernatant, we recommend tilting the plate at a 90 degree angle. This makes it easier to see the removal of residual supernatant from bottom and side of the plate.
- Less than 20  $\mu\text{L}$  of supernatant should be left in each well after Section 2, steps 10 and 30. The figure below shows different volumes of supernatant when viewed from the bottom of the deep well plate.

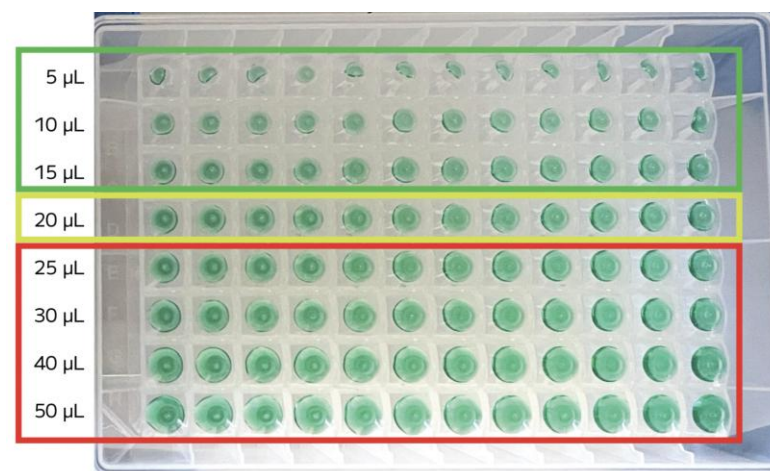


Figure 4: Bottom view of a deep well plate with different volumes of residual supernatant.

### Reagent Stability

- Reagents in the Nuclei Fixation Reagents box should not be frozen and thawed more than 3 times.
- If the kit is going to be used more than 3 times, the reagents should be aliquoted into nuclease-free 1.5 mL tubes and stored at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  for up to 1 month. We do not recommend making single use aliquots to minimize the impact of evaporation during storage.

- To avoid pipetting <2  $\mu\text{L}$  of RNase Inhibitor, we do not recommend preparing less than 2 reactions of Nuclei Storage Master Mix. If required, the master mix can be prepared without DMSO, split into aliquots, and stored at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  for up to a month. DMSO should be added prior to use in the protocol to a final concentration of 5%.

### Storage of Fixed Samples

- Fixed samples can be stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  for up to 6 months. Fixed samples should not be refrozen after thawing.
- When possible, we recommend splitting samples into aliquots after fixation in Section 2, Step 37. The aliquots should be at least  $\geq 20 \mu\text{L}$  when stored in 0.2 mL PCR tubes or tube strip(s).
- We **strongly suggest** making a 20  $\mu\text{L}$  counting aliquot for each sample. This aliquot should be used to update sample concentrations in the Evercode Sample Loading Table before starting the Evercode workflow. The loss after freeze/thaw should match the sample. This will minimize the time between sample thawing and the start of the Evercode workflow.

## Part List

The Evercode Nuclei Fixation v4, high-throughput plate workflow requires Nuclei Fixation Reagents and Nuclei Fixation Enhancer boxes.

**Nuclei Fixation Reagents, 96 reactions.** Store at -20°C, PN NF700

| LABEL                                                                               | ITEM                      | PN    | FORMAT       | QTY |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------|--------------|-----|
|    | Prefixation Buffer        | NF301 | 15 mL bottle | 2   |
|    | Storage Buffer            | NF302 | 8 mL bottle  | 2   |
|    | Fixative Solution         | NF303 | 8 mL bottle  | 2   |
|    | Permeabilization Solution | NF313 | 2 mL tube    | 2   |
|  | Fix and Perm Stop Buffer  | NF305 | 15 mL bottle | 2   |
|  | RNase Inhibitor           | NF306 | 1.5 mL tube  | 1   |
|  | DMSO                      | NF307 | 1.5 mL tube  | 1   |

**Nuclei Prefixation Enhancer, 96 reactions.** Store at 4°C, PN NF800

| LABEL                                                                               | ITEM                 | PN    | FORMAT    | QTY |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------|-----------|-----|
|  | Prefixation Enhancer | NF401 | 2 mL tube | 1   |

**30 µm Plate Strainer.** Store at Room Temperature

| LABEL | ITEM                           | PN      | FORMAT         | QTY |
|-------|--------------------------------|---------|----------------|-----|
| N/A   | Adhesive Plate Strainer, 30 µm | PCS1030 | Plastic sleeve | 2   |

## User Supplied Equipment and Materials

The following materials and equipment are required to perform the protocol but are not provided within the kit. This list does not include standard laboratory equipment, such as freezers.

### Equipment

| ITEM                                                 | SUPPLIER          | PN      | NOTES                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Centrifuge with Swinging Bucket Rotor                | Various Suppliers | Varies  | Compatible with 1.5 mL and 15 mL tubes and capable of reaching 4°C. Compatible with 96 deep well plates and capable of reaching 4°C.                                                                        |
| Microcentrifuge                                      | Various Suppliers | Varies  | Compatible with 1.5 mL tubes.                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 1-channel: P20, P200, P1000<br>12-channel: P20, P200 | Various Suppliers | Varies  | Or 8-channel pipettes can be substituted for 12-channel pipettes.                                                                                                                                           |
| Hemocytometer                                        | Sigma-Aldrich®    | Z359629 | Or other nuclei counting device.                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Styrofoam Cooler                                     | Various Suppliers | Varies  | (Optional) If storing fixed samples before processing with an Evercode Whole Transcriptome kit.                                                                                                             |
| Water bath                                           | Various Suppliers | Varies  | (Optional) If preparing aliquots to count the day before running a downstream Evercode Whole Transcriptome kit. Or equivalent thermomixer, heat block, or bead bath capable of holding temperature at 37°C. |

### Reagents

| ITEM                                     | SUPPLIER                 | PN                         | NOTES                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| RNaseZap™ RNase Decontamination Solution | Thermo Fisher Scientific | AM9780                     | Or equivalent RNase decontamination solution.                                                |
| Trypan Blue                              | Various Suppliers        | Varies                     | Or alternative viability dyes, such as AO/PI.                                                |
| TrypLE™ Express OR TrypLE Select         | Thermo Fisher Scientific | 12605010<br>OR<br>12563011 | (Optional) If using adherent cells. Trypsin is not recommended due to variable RNase levels. |

| ITEM                                             | SUPPLIER                 | PN       | NOTES                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Gibco™ Bovine Albumin Fraction V (7.5% solution) | Thermo Fisher Scientific | 15260037 | (Optional) If blocking tubes with BSA. Chosen due to its low RNase activity. Contact applications support for alternatives. |

## Consumables

| ITEM                                                      | SUPPLIER          | PN                                    | NOTES                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SealPlate®                                                | Excel Scientific® | 100-SEAL-PLT                          | Or equivalent PCR plate seals. Note that many clear plastic seals are not designed for storage at -80°C, so we recommend using foil plate seals if storing fixed samples in PCR plates.                                         |
| TempPlate® EXT Sealing Foil                               | USA Scientific®   | 2998-0100                             | (Optional) If storing fixed samples in a PCR plate. Note that many clear plastic seals are not designed for storage at -80°C.                                                                                                   |
| Protein LoBind® Plate                                     | Eppendorf®        | 951033308 (1 mL)<br>0030504305 (2 mL) | Or equivalent polypropylene, nuclease-free, v-bottom, 1 mL or 2 mL deep well plates. Do not substitute polystyrene plates as it will lead to substantial cell loss. If possible, we recommend using protein low-binding plates. |
| Reagent basins                                            | Various Suppliers | Varies                                | (Optional) If blocking deep well plates with BSA. Sterile, nuclease-free reagent basins.                                                                                                                                        |
| Eppendorf twin.tec® PCR Plate 96 LoBind®                  | Eppendorf         | 0030129504                            | Or equivalent DNA low-binding, nuclease-free PCR plate capable of holding 270 µL.                                                                                                                                               |
| Falcon® High Clarity PP Centrifuge Tubes, 15 mL and 50 mL | Corning®          | 352097 (15 mL)<br>352098 (50 mL)      | Or equivalent polypropylene centrifuge tubes.                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| TempAssure® PCR 8-Tube Strips, 0.2 mL                     | USA Scientific®   | 1402-4700                             | Or equivalent nuclease-free 0.2 mL PCR tubes.                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Pipette Tips TR LTS 20 µL, 200 µL, 1,000 µL               | Rainin®           | 17014961,<br>17014963,<br>17014967    | Or appropriate DNA low-binding, low retention, DNase/RNase-free, and filtered pipette tips. Do not use wide bore tips.                                                                                                          |

## Section 1: Set Up

### 1.1. Block Plates with BSA

Although not required, blocking plates with BSA can increase cell retention. When Protein LoBind plates are not available, we recommend blocking plates, especially for samples with low cell inputs or cells prone to aggregation.



**Note:** Do not use BSA coated tubes for storing fixed samples. Use regular tube in you don't have LoBind tubes.

#### To block plates:

1. Prepare a fresh 1% BSA as follows, depending on the number of samples being processed.

| 1% BSA                                          |         |         |          |          |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| Number of Samples                               | 1       | 12      | 48       | 96       |
| Nuclease-free water                             | 1.82 mL | 21.8 mL | 87.3 mL  | 174.4 mL |
| Gibco Bovine Albumin Fraction V (7.5% solution) | 280 µL  | 3.4 mL  | 13.6 mL  | 27.2 mL  |
| Total Volume                                    | 2.1 mL  | 25.2 mL | 100.8 mL | 201.6 mL |

2. Fill a new basin with 1% BSA, refilling as needed in step 3.
3. For each sample, add **1 mL** of 1% BSA to a well of a polypropylene, nuclease-free, v-bottom, 1 mL deep well plate, or **2 mL** per well for a 2 mL deep well plate.
4. Repeat step 3 with a second deep well plate.
5. Add new plate seals and invert once to fully coat the wells.
6. Incubate for **30 minutes** at room temperature.
7. Remove the plate seals. Decant and discard the 1% BSA.
8. Add new plate seals.
9. Centrifuge the plates for **1 minute** at 100 x g at room temperature.

10. Remove the plates from the centrifuge and remove the plate seals.
11. Remove any remaining solution from the bottom of the wells with a multichannel P200.
12. Without sealing the plates, air dry for **30 minutes** in a biosafety cabinet at room temperature.
13. Proceed to Section 1.2 or store sealed BSA-coated plates at 4°C for up to 4 weeks.

## 1.2. Prepare Master Mixes

Master mixes should be prepared just prior to fixation. Plate Strainers are cut, if needed.

### To prepare master mixes:

1. Fill a bucket with ice. Gather the following items and handle as indicated below.

| ITEM                        | SOURCE                            | FORMAT         | HANDLING AND STORAGE                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ○ Prefixation Buffer        | Nuclei Fixation Reagents (-20°C)  | 15 mL bottle   | Thaw at room temperature then immediately store on ice. Mix by inverting each tube/bottle. Do not vortex. |
| ○ Storage Buffer            | Nuclei Fixation Reagents (-20°C)  | 8 mL bottle    |                                                                                                           |
| ○ Fixative Solution         | Nuclei Fixation Reagents (-20°C)  | 8 mL bottle    |                                                                                                           |
| ● Permeabilization Solution | Nuclei Fixation Reagents (-20°C)  | 2 mL tube      |                                                                                                           |
| ○ Fix and Perm Stop Buffer  | Nuclei Fixation Reagents (-20°C)  | 15 mL bottle   |                                                                                                           |
| ● DMSO                      | Nuclei Fixation Reagents (-20°C)  | 1.5 mL tube    | Thaw and store at room temperature. Mix by inverting the tube.                                            |
| ● RNase Inhibitor           | Nuclei Fixation Reagents (-20°C)  | 1.5 mL tube    | Store on ice immediately before use. Do not vortex.                                                       |
| ● Prefixation Enhancer      | Nuclei Prefixation Enhancer (4°C) | 2 mL tube      |                                                                                                           |
| Plate Strainer (30 µm)      | Plate Strainer (Room Temperature) | Plastic sleeve | Keep at room temperature                                                                                  |

2. Prepare the Nuclei Prefixation Master Mix in a new tube as follows. Mix thoroughly by pipetting and store on ice.

| NUCLEI PREFIXATION MASTER MIX |        |         |         |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------|---------|
| Number of Samples             | 1      | 48      | 96      |
| ○ Prefixation Buffer          | 222 µL | 10.7 mL | 21.3 mL |
| ● RNase Inhibitor             | 3 µL   | 144 µL  | 288 µL  |
| ● Prefixation Enhancer        | 15 µL  | 720 µL  | 1.4 mL  |
| Total Volume                  | 240 µL | 11.2 mL | 23 mL   |



**CRITICAL!** The overages in these master mixes are designed for use with the Evercode™ Nuclei Fixation v4, HT 96 reactions kit when processing ≥48 samples across up to 2 fixation sessions. If the kit is to be used more than twice, the mid-throughput plate-based workflow should be used instead to ensure there are sufficient reagent overages.

**CRITICAL!** Reagents in the Nuclei Fixation JP Reagents box can be frozen and thawed 3 times. If the kit will be used more than 4 times, aliquots should be made. See Reagent Stability in Important Guidelines for details.

3. Prepare the Nuclei Storage Master Mix in a new tube as follows. Mix thoroughly by pipetting and store on ice.

| NUCLEI STORAGE MASTER MIX |           |         |          |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------|----------|
| Number of Samples         | 1         | 48      | 96       |
| ○ Storage Buffer          | 131.25 µL | 6.3 mL  | 12.6 mL  |
| ● RNase Inhibitor         | 1.75 µL   | 84 µL   | 168 µL   |
| ● DMSO                    | 7 µL      | 336 µL  | 672 µL   |
| Total Volume              | 140 µL    | 6.72 mL | 13.44 mL |

- Each sample is strained twice into 2 different plates in Section 2, so Plate Strainer(s) may need to be cut so they can be applied separately in the two steps with 1 strainer well per sample at both steps. With the Plate Strainers still in the plastic sleeve, cut along the green plastic with sterile scissors, a razor blade, or a scalpel that has been cleaned with RNaseZap.



**CRITICAL!** Do not directly touch the mesh of Plate Strainer(s) to anything prior to straining.

**CRITICAL!** After opening their plastic sleeves, Plate Strainers should be stored in their original plastic sleeve until use and used on the same day they were opened.

- Proceed immediately to Section 2.

## Section 2: Fixation

### 2.1. Nuclei Fixation

After the initial centrifugation to remove the buffer/medium from the single nuclei suspension, nuclei are transferred to Nuclei Prefixation Master Mix. Reagents are added to fix and permeabilize nuclei, and then stop these reactions. Nuclei are resuspended in Nuclei Storage Master Mix and stored at -80°C. This fixation protocol relies on multichannel pipettes and the reagents pre-dispensed in 0.2 mL tube strips or plates in Section 1 to fix up to 48 samples in parallel.

#### To fix nuclei:

1. Cool the centrifuge with a swinging bucket rotor to 4°C.
2. Fill a bucket with ice.
3. Prepare a hemocytometer, flow cytometer, or other nuclei counting device.
4. Count the nuclei in the single nuclei suspension with a hemocytometer or alternative counting device and record the count. Keep nuclei on ice during counting and work quickly to minimize time on ice prior to fixation.
5. With the plate on ice, transfer 100,000 to 1 million nuclei from each sample into the wells of polypropylene, nuclease-free, v-bottom, 1 mL or 2 mL deep well plate (or BSA-coated deep well plate if prepared in Section 1.1).
6. Add a new plate seal.
7. Centrifuge the plate in a swinging bucket rotor for **5-10 minutes** at 200-500 x g at 4°C.

**CRITICAL!** Use of a fixed-angle rotor in this protocol will lead to substantial nuclei loss.



**CRITICAL!** Ideal centrifugation speed and duration should be determined for each sample type to optimize retention and resuspension efficiencies. See the Important Guidelines section for details.

**CRITICAL!** Move quickly and handle the samples gently to avoid dislodging the pellet, which will impact data quality.

8. Remove the plate from the centrifuge, remove the plate seal, and store on ice.

9. With a multichannel P200, slowly aspirate and discard all but ~100  $\mu\text{L}$  of supernatant from each well. Keep the pipette tips along the side of the wells to avoid disturbing the pellets.



**CRITICAL!** Do not reuse any tips across rows throughout this protocol. Never place a tip that has entered one of the wells into a different well or back into a master mix.

10. Tilt the plate 90 degrees. With a multichannel P200, remove and discard the remaining supernatant. Keep the pipette tips along the side of the wells to avoid disturbing the pellets.



**CRITICAL!** Less than 20  $\mu\text{L}$  of supernatant should be left in each well. See the Important Guidelines section for an example image with varying amounts of residual supernatant.



**Note:** Tilting the plate 90 degrees makes it easier to visualize removal of residual supernatant.

11. Transfer the Nuclei Prefixation Master Mix to a new basin with a pipette.
12. With the plate on ice, fully resuspend each pellet in **180  $\mu\text{L}$**  of Nuclei Prefixation Master Mix.
13. Apply a Plate Strainer to a new 96 deep well plate (or BSA-coated deep well plate if prepared in Section 1.1) by peeling off the backing, carefully aligning over the wells, and placing on the surface of the plate.



**CRITICAL!** Do not directly touch the mesh of Plate Strainer(s) to anything prior to straining.



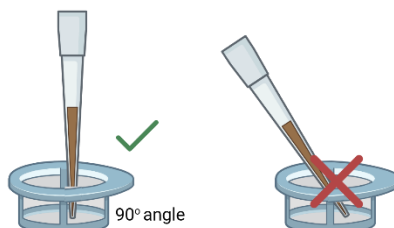
**Note:** Plate Strainer(s) will need to be cut if processing fewer than 96 samples. See Step 4 in Section 1.2 for details.

14. Without touching the mesh, fully adhere the Plate Strainer by pressing a pipette tip or plate sealer cleaned with RNaseZap along the green plastic on the edges and between the wells of the plate.

15. With both plates on ice, pipette **187.5  $\mu$ L** of each sample through the strainer into the new 96 deep well plate. Discard the original plate.



**Note:** To ensure that all of the liquid passes through the strainer, firmly press the tip of the pipette against the filter and steadily depress down the pipette plunger. All of the liquid should pass through the strainer in ~1 second.



16. Tap the plate 3x on the benchtop to move liquid to the bottom of the wells.

17. Carefully peel off the Plate Strainer and discard.

18. Transfer **○** Fixative Solution to a new basin with a pipette as follows.

| FIXATIVE SOLUTION   |             |        |        |
|---------------------|-------------|--------|--------|
| Number of Samples   | 1           | 48     | 96     |
| ○ Fixative Solution | 100 $\mu$ L | 4.8 mL | 9.6 mL |

19. With the plate on ice, add **62.5  $\mu$ L** of **○** Fixative Solution to each well and mix immediately by pipetting exactly 3x.



**CRITICAL!** Do not perform additional mixing at this step.

20. Incubate on ice for **10 minutes**.



**Note:** Start the timer after adding **○** Fixative Solution to the first row of the plate.

21. Add **●** Permeabilization Solution to a new basin with a pipette as follows.

| PERMEABILIZATION SOLUTION |   |    |    |
|---------------------------|---|----|----|
| Number of Samples         | 1 | 48 | 96 |

| PERMEABILIZATION SOLUTION   |              |        |        |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------|--------|
| ● Permeabilization Solution | 37.5 $\mu$ L | 1.8 mL | 3.6 mL |

22. With the plate on ice, add **20  $\mu$ L** of ● Permeabilization Solution to each well with a multichannel P20 and mix immediately by pipetting 3x with a multichannel P200 set to 180  $\mu$ L.

23. Incubate on ice for **3 minutes**.



**Note:** Start the timer after adding ● Permeabilization Solution to the first row of the plate. This incubation can be extended by 2 additional minutes (up to a total of 5 minutes) without negatively impacting performance.

24. Add ○ Fix and Perm Stop Buffer to a new basin with a pipette as follows.

| FIX AND PERM STOP BUFFER   |               |         |         |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------|---------|
| Number of Samples          | 1             | 48      | 96      |
| ○ Fix and Perm Stop Buffer | 283.3 $\mu$ L | 13.6 mL | 27.2 mL |

25. With the plate on ice and changing tips between additions, add **250  $\mu$ L** of ○ Fix and Perm Stop Buffer to each well with a multichannel P200 set to 125  $\mu$ L. Mix immediately by gently pipetting 3x.

26. Add a new plate seal.

27. Centrifuge the plate in a swinging bucket rotor for **5-10 minutes** at 200-500 x g at 4°C.

28. Remove the plate from the centrifuge, remove the plate seal, and store on ice.

29. With a multichannel P200 set to 200  $\mu$ L, slowly aspirate and discard 400  $\mu$ L of supernatant from each well. Keep the pipette tips along the side of the wells to avoid disturbing the pellets.

30. Tilt the plate 90 degrees. With a multichannel P200, remove and discard the remaining supernatant from each well. Keep the pipette tips along the side of the wells to avoid disturbing the pellets.



**CRITICAL!** Less than 20  $\mu$ L of supernatant should be left in each well. See the Important Guidelines section for example images of varying volumes of residual supernatant.



**Note:** Tilting the plate 90 degrees makes it easier to visualize removal of residual supernatant.

31. Transfer the Nuclei Storage Master Mix to a basin with a pipette.
32. With the plate on ice, fully resuspend each pellet in an additional **75-125  $\mu$ L** of Nuclei Storage Master Mix.
33. Apply a Plate Strainer to a new 0.2 mL 96 well PCR plate by peeling off the backing, carefully aligning over the wells, and placing on the surface of the plate.



**CRITICAL!** Do not directly touch the mesh of Plate Strainer(s) to anything prior to straining.

34. Without touching the mesh, fully adhere the Plate Strainer by pressing a pipet tip or plate sealer cleaned with RNaseZap along the green plastic on the edges and between the wells of the plate.
35. With both plates on ice, pipette **85  $\mu$ L** of each sample through the strainer into the new PCR plate. Discard the original plate.
36. Carefully peel off the Plate Strainer and discard.
37. With a multichannel P20 set to 20  $\mu$ L, mix the samples by pipetting 5x then immediately transfer **20  $\mu$ L** to new 0.2 mL tube strip(s). Store on ice.



**Note:** These aliquots can be thawed and counted separately from the remaining sample for downstream processing with Evercode kits.

38. Seal the original plate with a seal that can withstand storage at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  or transfer the remainder of the sample to 0.2 mL tube strip(s).



**CRITICAL!** Many clear plastic seals are not designed for storage at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$ , so we recommend using foil plate seals if storing fixed samples in PCR plates.

39. Place the samples in a room temperature styrofoam cooler, close the lid, and store at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  to slowly cool the samples.



**CRITICAL!** Storing samples directly in the freezer without controlled cooling may lead to nuclei damage and compromise data quality.



Safe stopping point: Samples are stable for up to 6 months at -80°C.

40. The day before running the downstream Evercode kit, thaw the 20  $\mu$ L aliquots in a water bath set to 37°C in sets of 2-4. Count the nuclei in the single nuclei suspension with a hemocytometer or alternative counting device and record the count. Discard any remaining sample from the counting step.



**Note:** These counts will more accurately reflect counts when collected closer to downstream Evercode processing because they have undergone a similar storage time and the freeze thaw. These counts can be used to calculate any necessary dilutions with the Sample Loading Table for the relevant Evercode kit.

## Appendices

### Appendix A: Nuclei Number and Concentration Reference Tables

#### Appendix A1: Nuclei Concentrations for Evercode WT v4 Kits

The final concentration of nuclei post-fixation is influenced by the resuspension volume used in Step 32 of Section 2. These factors should all be considered when determining how much sample input is needed for fixation.

When using the Evercode WT v4 kits, use the table below to target the post-fixation nuclei concentration.

| NUCLEI CONCENTRATIONS FOR EVERCODE WT V4 KITS |                                    |                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Kit                                           | Target Post-Fixation Concentration | Minimum Post-Thaw Concentration to Fully Load Kit |
| Evercode WT Mini                              | >500 nuclei/ $\mu$ L               | 238 nuclei/ $\mu$ L                               |
| Evercode WT                                   | >1,000 nuclei/ $\mu$ L             | 373 nuclei/ $\mu$ L                               |
| Evercode WT Mega                              | >3,000 nuclei/ $\mu$ L             | 1,860 nuclei/ $\mu$ L                             |
| Evercode Mega 384                             | >1,000 nuclei/ $\mu$ L             | 456 nuclei/ $\mu$ L                               |
| Evercode WT Penta                             | 4,500-5,000 nuclei/ $\mu$ L        | 3,720 nuclei/ $\mu$ L                             |
| Evercode WT Penta 384                         | 4,200-5,000 nuclei/ $\mu$ L        | 2,325 nuclei/ $\mu$ L                             |



**Note:** We do not recommend storing fixed samples at a concentration higher than 5,000 nuclei/ $\mu$ L after fixation. Higher concentrations could lead to clumping in certain sample types, such as HEK and 3T3 cell lines.

## Appendix A2: Nuclei Concentrations for Evercode MAX WT v4 Kits

When using the Evercode MAX WT v4 Barcoding kits, the table below shows the range number of nuclei needed for each barcoding kit, and the range of post-fixation nuclei concentration.

Users should confirm both their target nuclei number and their sublibrary format before adding the Nuclei Storage Master Mix in Section 2.1.32, to ensure the fixed nuclei concentration meets both requirements.

We do not recommend preparing less than two sublibraries (2 SL).

| LOADING CONCENTRATION GUIDANCE |              |         |         |         |         |           |           |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| KIT                            | METRIC       | 2 SL    | 4 SL    | 8 SL    | 12 SL   | 16 SL     | 32 SL     |
| MAX WT S                       | MIN CONC.    | 381     | 762     | 952     | X       | X         | X         |
|                                | TARGET CONC. | 500     | 1,000   | 2,000   | X       | X         | X         |
|                                | MAX NUCLEI   | 16,000  | 32,000  | 64,000  | X       | X         | X         |
| MAX WT M                       | MIN CONC.    | 238     | 476     | 952     | 1,429   | 1,905     | X         |
|                                | TARGET CONC. | 500     | 1,000   | 2,000   | 2,000   | 3,000     | X         |
|                                | MAX NUCLEI   | 64,000  | 128,000 | 256,000 | 384,000 | 512,000   | X         |
| MAX WT L                       | MIN CONC.    | 238     | 476     | 952     | 1,429   | 1,905     | 3910      |
|                                | TARGET CONC. | 500     | 1,000   | 2,000   | 2,000   | 3,000     | 5,000     |
|                                | MAX NUCLEI   | 128,000 | 256,000 | 512,000 | 768,000 | 1,024,000 | 2,048,000 |
| MAX WT L-384                   | MIN CONC.    | X       | X       | 238     | 357     | 476       | 952       |
|                                | TARGET CONC. | X       | X       | 500     | 500     | 1,000     | 1,500     |
|                                | MAX NUCLEI   | X       | X       | 512,000 | 768,000 | 1,024,000 | 2,048,000 |



## Appendix B: Revision History

| Version | Description              | Date           |
|---------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1.0     | Initial release          | March 2026     |
| 1.1     | Updated for Evercode MAX | September 2026 |



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