

Specimen Requirements for Infectious Diseases, Hormone and Vitamin Levels Testing

Specimen Type: Whole blood collected in BD plasma preparation or serum preparation tubes

(1) Plasma Preparations

- (i) Lavender top tube with K₂EDTA (plastic)
Inversions: 8-10 times

OR

- (ii) Yellow top with SPS and acid citrate dextrose (ACD) additives (plastic)
Inversions: 5 times

OR

(2) Serum Preparations

- (iii) Red top with clot activators and silica coating (plastic)
Inversions: 5 times

OR

- (iv) Tiger top (Red/grey marbled) with clot activators and silica coating (plastic)
Inversions: 5 times

Draw Volume: 5-10 ml (For viral RNA assays by RT-qPCR, 10ml sample is preferred)

Storage Temperature:

Within a week: Refrigerated (2°C to 8°C)

Beyond a week: Frozen (-20°C)

Shipping Conditions:

- Place the collection tube upright
- Specimen container caps and lids should be properly tightened to prevent leakage
- Collect the specimen in recommended containers and transfer to a leak proof plastic specimen transport bag
- Frozen specimens must be shipped in insulated containers on a minimum of 5 lbs. of dry ice. Specimens must remain frozen during transport.

Rejection Criteria for Plasma Preparations

- Specimens collected with incorrect anticoagulant (e.g. heparinised blood is NOT an acceptable sample type)
- Insufficient quantity received or incomplete filling of the tubes

- Samples received at ambient temperature beyond stability for the assay
- Thawed specimens
- Haemolysis or lipemia (due to increased number of inversions or improper specimen collection)
- Improperly labelled specimens

Rejection Criteria for Serum Preparations

- Specimens collected with anticoagulant
- Failure to allow sample to clot completely before centrifugation
- Insufficient quantity received or incomplete filling of the tubes
- Samples received at ambient temperature beyond stability for the assay
- Thawed specimens
- Haemolysis or lipemia (due to increased number of inversions or improper specimen collection)
- Improperly labelled samples