

## **Specimen Requirements for Blood Coagulation Tests**

- Specimen Type: Whole blood collected in BD vacutainer tubes
- Light blue top tube with sodium citrate (plastic)
- Inversions: 3-6 times
- Draw Volume: 2.7 ml (Most tubes contain 0.3 mL anticoagulant and draw 2.7 mL of blood)
- The proportion of blood to the sodium citrate is 9:1; inadequate filling may lead to inaccurate results. It is important the tube is full to ensure correct dilutions.
- Anticoagulants such as oxalate, heparin and EDTA may cause invalid results
- Anticoagulant therapy such as heparin or warfarin affects many test results and must be notified

### **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

### **Sample Rejection Criteria**

- Specimens collected with incorrect anticoagulant (e.g. EDTA, heparin etc. are NOT acceptable)
- 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