

SAMPLE PREPARATION AND SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

1. Submission form and a purchase order must accompany each shipment.
2. Receiving Department is closed on Sundays and holidays.
3. Advance notification of all shipments allows for the most efficient processing of samples.

Ship Samples to:

Attn: VRL
401 Professional Drive
Suite 210
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Serum for Routine Clinical Chemistry

Collect blood in a plain red top tube, or a tube with serum separator gel.
Allow blood to clot at room temperature for 20-30 minutes (no longer). Tubes containing a serum separator gel can be centrifuged as soon as a clot has formed (usually within 5 minutes).
Centrifuge 10-20 minutes at 2000-3500 rpm.
Draw off serum into a transport tube.
Ship refrigerated (on chilled "wet ice" packs) if samples will arrive within 48 hours of collection.
Ship frozen on dry ice if greater than 48 hours after collection.
ISE Testing (electrolytes) requires a minimum serum volume of 150µl per sample.

Whole Blood for Hematology Procedures

A minimum volume of 175 microliters of blood is required to do most tests.
Draw whole blood into a lavender (purple) top EDTA tube (50-80% full).
Immediately mix thoroughly by inverting several times.
Blood with clots will not produce accurate results.
If manual blood counts are to be requested, make two blood smear slides from the tube and allow to dry. Ship in a sealed slide box to keep out moisture.
Ship blood samples on chilled "wet ice" packs. **(Insulate samples to avoid direct contact with frozen ice packs)**
Do not freeze whole blood samples.

Urine for Urinalysis Procedures

Submit fresh samples in sealed Eppendorf tubes.
Ship within 24 hours of collection at room temperature.
If submitted greater than 24 hours past collection, ship on chilled "wet ice" packs.
Submit at least 250 microliters of urine for best results.

Plasma Samples for Coagulation Procedures

Draw whole blood into a sodium citrate tube (50-80% full).
Allow blood to clot at room temperature for 20-30 minutes (no longer). Tubes containing a serum separator gel can be centrifuged as soon as a clot has formed (usually within 5 minutes).
Centrifuge 10-20 minutes at 2000-3500 rpm.
Draw off plasma into a transport tube.
Ship refrigerated (on chilled "wet ice" packs) if samples will arrive within 24 hours of collection.
Ship frozen on dry ice if greater than 4 hours after collection.

