ALVERNO LABORATORIES

Obtaining A Platelet-Poor Plasma Specimen

PURPOSE:

Activated platelets can cause interference in coagulation assays. CAP noted that coagulation samples must have a platelet count below 10,000/µL, often called platelet-poor plasma, before performing coagulation tests. Platelet-poor plasma is achieved via centrifugation.

COLLECTION and PROCESSING of SPECIMEN:

1. Obtain the appropriate collection tube(s) via standard venipuncture. Coagulation tests are *typically* performed on sodium citrate plasma (blue top). Refer to the online collection manual for test-specific collection information.

2. Tube MUST be full for proper whole blood to anticoagulant ratio. Invert tube "end to end" to prevent clotting.

3. Centrifuge specimen 15 minutes at a minimum of 3,000 RPM.

4. Using a disposable pipette, aliquot or transfer plasma (***do not disturb the buffy coat***) into transfer tube #1. Use only polypropylene tubes to aliquot (transfer) specimens.

5. Centrifuge transfer tube #1 for 15 minutes at a minimum of 3,000 RPM.

6. Using a disposable pipette, aliquot or transfer plasma (***do not disturb the buffy coat***) into transfer tube #2.

7. Cap transfer tube #2 and freeze plasma.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE INSTRUCTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE LABORATORY *BEFORE* COLLECTING THE SAMPLE.

Policy Stat ID: FORM: Patient Information Sheets
Rev. 08-12-2021/alt

2434 Interstate Plaza Drive Hammond, IN 46324
www.alvernolabs.com
800-937-5521