



Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

COAGULATION SPECIMEN PROCESSING (FREEZING SAMPLES)

POLICY

For optimal testing coagulation specimens should reach the LMC Hematology Department within 4 hours after draw. If the specimen will not reach the Hematology Department within 4 hours the specimen (s) will need to be centrifuged and frozen in 1 ml citrated plasma aliquoted *polyethylene tubes before transport and remain frozen until tested. Specimens for PT's will be accepted up to 24 hours, without aliquoting, if refrigerated.

NOTE: **Polyethylene tubes are available through Client Service by calling 791-2664.*

PROCEDURE

1. Start with a centrifuge capable of spinning for 10 minutes at 2,500g or 2 minutes in a STAT spin centrifuge. The centrifuge must achieve platelet-poor plasma of less than 10,000 platelets.
2. Spin the original sample (s) for the appropriate time and speed. Remove most of the plasma without disturbing the buffy coat and place in another plastic labeled tube. If platelets from the buffy coat are introduced into the tube the sample will not be acceptable for testing.
3. Spin the labeled plastic tube with the pooled plasma. While the plasma is spinning for the second time prepare the polyethylene tubes by labeling 4-5 with the complete patient information. Use the computer label if available.
4. Remove the spun plastic tube from the centrifuge without disturbing the button on the bottom.
5. Place 1 ml aliquots into the polyethylene tubes. Securely place the cap onto the tubes.
6. Place the aliquot tubes in the freezer in an upright vertical position for a minimum of one hour before transporting.
7. Once frozen, the aliquots should be placed in a biohazard bag and transported on dry ice.
8. Deliver the specimen (s) to Hematology. The Hematology Tech will take care of processing any paperwork.