

UCI Health

Subject: **Update on Specimen Transport for PFA-100 Testing**

Effective Date: 3/24/26

To: Nursing Staff, Procedural Areas, and Referral Units

Effective immediately, PFA-100 specimens collected **must be hand-carried to the UCI Coagulation Laboratory**. Unfortunately, pneumatic tube (P-tube) transport of specimens will no longer be acceptable; PFA-100 specimens received via P-tube will be rejected, necessitating re-collection.

Rationale

International Council for Standardization in Hematology (ICSH) recommendations have shown that that pneumatic tube transport can adversely affect platelet function assay performance and patient test result reliability.¹ In review with the UCI Laboratory compliance team, this policy update is in accordance with the 2025 CAP guidelines, which emphasize specimen handling practices that prevent pre-analytical conditions from compromising patient testing results.

Lastly, this update aligns PFA-100 handling with current practice at UCI for other whole-blood coagulation studies that are already hand-delivered only, including ROTEM, P2Y12 testing, and platelet aggregation.

PFA-100 Specimen Handling Summary

- Maintain specimen at room temperature after draw; **do not refrigerate or ice**
- **Hand-carry** immediately to the Coagulation Laboratory upon specimen draw.

For any additional questions or concerns, please contact the UCI Hematology and Coagulation Laboratory. We appreciate your cooperation in supporting best practices that ensure high-quality laboratory results for patient safety.

Sincerely,



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Reference

1. Lawrie AS, et al. *Pre-analytical variables affecting platelet function testing*. Int J Lab Hematol. 2022;44:xxx-xxx. DOI: 10.1111/ijlh.13702. Available at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ijlh.13702>