

Lee Health
Lee County, FL
CLINICAL LABORATORY

CLINICAL LABORATORY SPECIMEN COLLECTION MANUAL

TEST NAME	STABILITY	TUBE	Testing Volume	Special Handling Requirements
Acetaminophen	2 weeks RT 2 weeks refrigerated 45 days frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	Acetaminophen specimens for therapeutic monitoring should not be drawn earlier than four hours after ingestion. If the time of ingestion is not known, two or more blood samples taken at two three-hour intervals may be used to estimate acetaminophen half- life and assess toxicity.
Acetone	2 hours stoppered	SST	2 mL	
Albumin	7 days RT 1 month refrigerated indefinite frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Alcohol	2 days RT 2 weeks refrigerated 1 month frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	Cleanse collection site with non-alcoholic agent before drawing blood.
Alkaline Phosphatase	4 days RT, refrigerated or frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Alpha-Fetoprotein	5 days refrigerated 4 weeks frozen	LT GRN/ SST	2 mL	Rejected for turbidity.
ALT	3 days RT 1 week refrigerated freezing not recommended	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Ammonia	RT not recommended 3 hrs refrigerated 24 hrs frozen	GN - ICE	2 mL	Transport on ice.
Amylase	7 days RT 1 month refrigerated freezing not recommended	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
ASO	4 days RT 7 days refrigerated 2 months frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
AST	3 days RT 7 days refrigerated 3 months frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Bilirubin (BuBc)	4 hrs RT 7 days refrigerated 6 months frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
BNP, NT PRO	3 days RT 3 days refrigerated 12 months frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
BUN	1day RT 5 days refrigerated 6 months frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	

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Calcium	4 hrs RT 22 days refrigerated 1 year frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
CA-125	7 days refrigerated 4 weeks frozen	LT GRN/ SST	3 mL	
Carbamazepine	5 days RT 5 days refrigerated 6 months frozen	RED/ SST < 24 hrs	2 mL	
Carbon Dioxide	24 hrs RT 3 days refrigerated 1 month frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
CBC	24 hours RT 48 hours refrigerated	LAV	1 mL	
CEA	7 days	LT GRN/ SST	2 mL	
Chloride	7 days RT 4 weeks refrigerated frozen indefinite	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Cholesterol	RT not recommended 3days refrigerated 3 weeks frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Cholinesterase	6 hrs RT 7 days refrigerated	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Complement C3	3 days refrigerated	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Complement C4	days refrigerated	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Cortisol	5 days refrigerated	LT GRN/ SST	2 mL	
CPK	4 hrs RT 5 days refrigerated 1 month frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
CKMB	5 days refrigerated 4 weeks frozen	LT GRN/ SST	2 mL	
Creatinine	5 days RT 30 days refrigerated frozen indefinite	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
CRP	4 hrs RT 3 days refrigerated 6 months frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	Overnight fasting is preferred.
Digoxin	8 hrs RT 1 week refrigerated 4 months frozen	LT GRN/ SST	2 mL	
ESR	4 hours RT 12 hours refrigerated	LAV	1.5 mL	
Estradiol	2 days refrigerated 4 weeks frozen	LT GRN/ SST	3 mL	
Fetal Fibronectin	3 days frig, 8 hrs room temp	FFN	n/a	
Ferritin	5 days f refrigerated	SST	3 mL	
Fibrinogen	8 hours RT	BLUE	2 mL	Tube must be filled to appropriate level.
Folate	7 days refrigerated 4 weeks frozen	LT GRN/ SST	2 mL	Protect from light
Free Thyroxine (FT4)	7 days refrigerated 4 weeks frozen	SST	1 mL	

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FSH	6 days refrigerated	LT GRN/ SST	3 mL	
Gamma-GT	7 days RT 7 days refrigerated 2 months frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Gentamicin	2 hrs RT 7 days refrigerated 14 days frozen	LT GRN/ SST	2 mL	
Glucose	24 hrs RT 7 days refrigerated CSF: ≤ 7 days refrigerated	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Haptoglobin	14 days RT 14 days refrigerated 14 days frozen	RED/ SST	2 mL	
HCG Qualitative	48 hrs refrigerated	SST	2 mL	
HCG Quantitative (bHCG)	5 days refrigerated	SST	2 mL	
HDL direct	2 hrs RT 3 days refrigerated 3 weeks frozen	LT GRN/ SST	3 mL	
HAV/HAV-M	8 hrs RT 7 days refrigerated	SST	3 mL	
Hemoglobin A1C	24 hrs RT, 7 days refrigerated	LAV	1 mL	
Hemogram	24 hours RT 48 hrs refrigerated	LAV	1 mL	
Hepatitis B Core IgM	8 hrs RT 2 days refrigerated	SST	3 mL	
Hepatitis B Surface Antibody	8 hrs RT 2 days refrigerated	SST	3 mL	
Hepatitis B Surface Antigen	8 hrs RT 2 days refrigerated	SST	3 mL	
Hepatitis C Virus Antibody (HCV)	8 hrs RT 2 days refrigerated	SST	3 mL	
Homocystine	3 days RT 10 days refrigerated 1 month frozen	LT GRN/ SST	5 mL	
hsCRP	4 hrs RT 3 days refrigerated	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Ionized Calcium	30 minutes stoppered	GN-ON ICE	3 mL	Transport to lab on ice within 20 minutes of collection.
Immunoglobulin A	1day RT 7 days refrigerated 4 weeks frozen	LT GRN/ SST	2 mL	
Immunoglobulin G	1day RT 7 days refrigerated 4 weeks frozen	LT GRN/ SST	2 mL	
Immunoglobulin M	1day RT 7 days refrigerated 4 weeks frozen	LT GRN/ SST	2 mL	
Insulin	24 hours refrigerated	LT GRN/ SST	2 mL	Transport to lab on ice within 20 minutes of collection
Iron	4 days RT 7 days refrigerated	SST	1 mL	

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	3 months frozen			
Iron Binding Capacity	4 days RT 14 days refrigerated 14 days frozen	SST	4 mL	
Lactic Acid	8 hours RT 14 days refrigerated 1 month frozen	GRAY	2 mL	Green top tubes are acceptable; however, they must be collected on ice and brought to the laboratory within 15 minutes of collection. Draw the specimen when the patient is at rest without the use of a tourniquet or within three minutes of applying the tourniquet but before releasing the tourniquet.
Legionella Urinary Antigen	14 days refrigerated	Cup	1 mL	
Lipase	7 days RT 3 weeks refrigerated 5 months frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Lithium	8 hours RT 24 hours refrigerated 6 months frozen	SST	1 mL	
LDH	2 days RT refrigerated not recommended frozen not recommended	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
LH	5 days refrigerated	LT GRN/ SST	2 mL	
Magnesium	1 week RT 1 week refrigerated 1 month frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Mono Spot Test	8 days refrigerated	SST	1 mL	
Osmolality, Serum	5 days refrigerated	SST	1 mL	
Osmolality, Urine	5 days refrigerated	Cup	1 mL	
Phenobarbital	48 hours RT 7 days refrigerated 2 months frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Phenytoin	8 hours RT 1 week refrigerated 12 weeks frozen	RED SST <24 hrs	2 mL	
Phosphorus	6 hours RT 2 days refrigerated 6 months frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Potassium	4 days RT 7 days refrigerated 6 months frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Prealbumin	1 day RT 2 weeks refrigerated frozen not recommended	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Prolactin	5 days refrigerated	LT GRN/ SST	3 mL	
Prostatic Specific Antigen (PSA)	7 days refrigerated	LT GRN/ SST	3 mL	
Protein Electrophoresis	4 days RT 7 days refrigerated 28 days frozen	SST	2 mL	Overnight fasting is preferred.
PT (Prottime)	24 hours refrigerated	BLUE	2 mL	Fill tube to appropriate level. – Prime butterfly line with a blue tube and discard
PTH	48 hrs refrigerated	LT GRN/ SST	4 mL	Mix tube thoroughly by inversion and transport to the laboratory immediately on ice.
PTT	4 hours RT	BLUE	2 mL	Fill tube to appropriate level. - Prime butterfly line with a blue tube and discard

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Quantiferon-TB Gold	3 days refrigerated/RT following incubation	4 tube collection kit	4 mL	Read collection kit instructions prior to collection
RA	3 days refrigerated	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Rapid HIV	3 days refrigerated	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Rapid Plasmin Reagin (RPR)	14 days refrigerated	SST	2 mL	
Rubella	7 days refrigerated	SST	2 mL	
Rubeola	14 days refrigerated 14 days frozen	RED/ SST	2 mL	
Salicylate	7 days RT 7 days refrigerated 6 months frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Sodium	4 days RT 1 week refrigerated 6 months frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
T3 Free	7 days refrigerated	LT GRN/ SST	2 mL	
T3 Total	7 days refrigerated	LT GRN/ SST	2 mL	
Testosterone	7 days refrigerated	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Theophylline	7 days RT 7 days refrigerated 60 days frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
TSH	7 days refrigerated	LT GRN/ SST	2 mL	
T-Uptake (TU)	7 days refrigerated	LT GRN/ SST	2 mL	
Thyroxine (T4)	5 days refrigerated	LT GRN/ SST	2 mL	
Tobramycin	2 hours RT 7 days refrigerated 14 days frozen	LT GRN/ SST	2 mL	Peak and Trough levels should be ordered as timed specimens per Pharmacy recommendations. Specimens should be collected within 15 minutes of designated time.
Total Bilirubin	4 hours RT 3 days refrigerated 6 months frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Total Protein	4 days RT 7 days refrigerated 6 months frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Transferrin	3 days refrigerated	LT GRN/ SST	3 mL	
Triglyceride	3 days RT 7 days refrigerated 6 months frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	Collect specimens from patients fasting for at least 12 and preferably 16 hours prior to the specimen draw.
Troponin	2 hours room temp 7 days refrigerated	LT GRN/ SST	2 mL	
Uric Acid	3 days RT 5 days refrigerated 6 months frozen	LT GRN/ SST	1 mL	
Valproic Acid	1 day RT 14 days refrigerated 14 days frozen	LT GRN/ SST	2 mL	
Vancomycin	2 hours RT 3 days refrigerated 14 days frozen	R/E/SST	2 mL	
Varicella Antibody	14 days refrigerated	RED/ SST	2 mL	

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	14 days frozen			
Vitamin B12	7 days refrigerated 4 weeks frozen	LT GRN/ SST	3 mL	
Urine Chemistries	72 hours refrigerated	Cup	Varies	see separate procedures or reference lab instructions for special preservatives

Approved By: _____ Date: _____

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