

Laboratory Utilization Guidelines - Specimens Maximum Hours from Collection to Testing Guidelines

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Clinical Chemistry	
Laboratory Test & Specimen	Maximum number of hours from collection to testing
Ammonia	2 hours at 2-8°C
Arterial and Venous blood gas	1 hour (30 min preferred)
C-peptide	90 minutes *collection to centrifugation
Glucose and Potassium	2 hours *collection to centrifugation
Homocysteine - Plasma	Separate within 1 hour and ship frozen
Human Growth Hormone	Separate within 90 minutes and ship frozen
Insulin	60 minutes * collection to centrifugation
Insulin like Growth Factor-1	Separate within 90 minutes and ship frozen
Ionized Calcium	4 hours
Lactate venous	60 minutes *collection to centrifugation
Synovial Crystals	4 hours
Uric Acid, Rasburicase protocol	2 hours at 2-8°C
Urinalysis	8 hours
Hematology	
Laboratory Test & Specimen	Maximum number of hours from collection to testing
Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate	10 hours
Complete Blood Count (Profile)	24 hours
Plasma Hemoglobin	Whole blood: 3 hours Plasma:24 hours 2-8°C
Malaria screen	4 hours
T Cell Subsets	24 hours
Coagulation Tests	
Partial Thromboplastin Time (PTT) Patient not on heparin	18 hours
Partial Thromboplastin Time (PTT) Patient on heparin	4 hours
Partial Thromboplastin Time 50% Correction (PTT50)	4 hours
Prothrombin Time (PT/INR)	24 hours
Prothrombin Time 50% Correction (PT 50)	24 hours
Thrombin Time	6 hours
Fibrinogen	6 hours
D-Dimer	6 hours
Partial Thromboplastin Time Dade (PTT Dade)	6 hours
Heparin Induced Thrombocytopenia	6 hours
Lupus anticoagulant	6 hours
Antithrombin	6 hours
Anti-Xa	6 hours
Factor II, Factor IX, Factor V, Factor VII, Factor VIII, Factor X, Factor XI, Factor XII	6 hours
Protein C	6 hours
Protein S	6 hours
Platelet Aggregation	4 hours
Platelet Function Assay	4 hours
Microbiology	
Link to Microbiology Tests: Provincial Microbiology User's Manual	
Transfusion Medicine	
Laboratory Test & Specimen	Maximum number of hours from collection to testing
Type and Screen (ABO/Rh)	24 hours
Direct Antiglobulin	24 hours