

Evaluation of the Patient Sample

GUIDELINE 3: Hematology Sample Acceptance and Rejection

Do Not Reject Samples Considered Difficult to Collect	
Samples considered difficult to collect are:	
• Samples collected in the operating room • CSF samples • Tissue samples • Sterile fluid samples (i.e. joint fluid)	• Aspirate samples • Samples collected from infants/pediatrics (Age: birth to 5 years old) • Surgical pathology samples

Hematology Criterion	Required Action
Clotted sample • CBC, ESR or Coagulation	Reject
CBC sample • room temperature sample greater than 24 hours old	Process for Hematology profile. • if testing is further delayed, make a peripheral smear and store at 2 – 8°C • test within 72 hours of collection time
CBC sample • sample at 2 – 8°C and greater than 72 hours old • less than 1 ml blood in 3.0 ml EDTA • less than 250ul in 500ul EDTA microtainer	Reject
Reticulocyte sample: • room temperature sample greater than 8 hours old • sample at 2 – 8°C and greater than 6 days old⁽²⁾	Reject



Hematology Criterion	Required Action
Infectious Mononucleosis Sample: • serum at 2 – 8°C and greater than 3 days old • whole blood at 2 – 8°C and greater than 48 hours old (Clearview Mono kit only) • hemolyzed • serum or whole blood stored at room temperature greater than 2 hours	Reject
ESR Sample Sodium Citrate (black tube) • under-filled or over-filled (must fill to fill line) • sample at 2 – 8°C and greater than 72 hours old • sample at room temperature and greater than 4 hours old EDTA (lavender tube) • underfilled – minimum 1.2 ml required • sample at 2 – 8°C and greater than 48 hours old • sample at room temperature and greater than 24 hours old	Reject
ANA sample • serum not centrifuged and aliquoted immediately after collection • sample at room temperature and greater than 2 days old • sample at 2 – 8°C and greater than 5 days old	Reject • freeze sample if transit time greater than 5 days
aDNA sample • sample at room temperature and greater than 24 hours old	Reject • samples should be aliquoted and frozen until testing can be performed



Hematology Criterion	Required Action
Blood Parasite sample (malaria etc.) - Smears not made within 1 hour of collection time - EDTA samples for Malaria Rapid Test (pending approval) - sample at 2 – 8°C and greater than 72 hours old	Reject when EDTA samples were stored at 2 – 8°C and when greater than 72 hours old. Proceed with making the smears even after 1 hour of collection and add a comment that it was a delay in slides preparations
Body Fluid cell count and differential sample: (includes CSF)	Proceed with testing – never reject body fluid samples - all samples should be evaluated for abnormal cells - refer to H BFA 0003 for appropriate test cancellation comments if sample is clotted or too old
Cryoglobulin / Cryofibrinogen sample - not fresh or midstream urine - greater than 3 hours old - not stored at 4° C	Reject
Cryoglobulin / Cryofibrinogen sample - not received at 37°C - lipemia present in serum/ plasma - patient receiving heparin or other blood anticoagulants	Reject
Bone marrow sample received without fixative	Place: - Bone marrow biopsy in B Plus Fixative and forward to Anatomic Pathology - Bone marrow aspirate in 10% formalin and forward to Anatomic Pathology



Hematology Criterion	Required Action
Coagulation sample: (Sodium Citrate blue top) • under-filled or over-filled by more than 10 of fill line • hemolyzed plasma PT sample: • un-centrifuged PT samples stored at room temperature and greater than 24 hours old • plasma aliquot stored at room temperature and greater than 8 hours old • any PT sample stored at 2 – 8°C PTT sample: • not centrifuged within 1 hour of collection and patient receiving unfractionated heparin • any other PTT centrifuged or un-centrifuged sample greater than 4 hours old Any other coagulation test: • greater than 4 hours old and plasma not frozen • “platelet poor plasma” not indicated on tube Any frozen plasma aliquot: • received partially or completely thawed • “platelet poor plasma” not indicated on tube	Reject
Fibrinogen ⁽¹⁾ sample: • whole blood sample at room temperature and greater than 4 hours old • plasma aliquot stored at: ◦ room temperature and greater than 8 hours old ◦ minus 20°C and greater than 2 weeks old ◦ minus 70°C and greater than 12 months old	Reject



Hematology Criterion	Required Action
Thrombin Time ⁽¹⁾ sample: - whole blood sample at room temperature and greater than 4 hours old - plasma aliquot stored at: - room temperature and greater than 2 hours old - minus 20°C and greater than 2 weeks old - minus 70°C and greater than 12 months old	Reject
D-Dimer Sample: - plasma aliquot stored at: - room temperature and greater than 8 hours old - minus 20°C and greater than 1-month old	Reject

(1) Reference: 2015-12-14 Fibrinogen and Thrombin Time Sample Stability Recommendation (Approved: 2016-02-04)

(2) Reference: 2014-05-01 Reticulocyte Sample Stability Validation (Approved: 2014-04-14)

- When rejecting samples, provide written notification of rejection to ordering physician using DOE: Cancel Orders CIS SM 220 or <fs> LIS order cancellation direction
- Select appropriate cancel reason and append additional cancellation information as required