

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

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Primary Care Guidance For Sample Collection, Centrifugation and Storage

Changes from previous revision

Removal of specific centrifuge information

Addition of hyperlink to DB product information

Change of technical service supplier

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GUIDANCE FOR BLOOD SAMPLE COLLECTION, CENTRIFUGATION AND STORAGE PRIOR TO TRANSPORT TO SPECIMEN RECEPTION AT THE NORFOLK AND NORWICH UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

1. SAMPLE TYPES AND TESTS SUITABLE FOR CENTRIFUGATION AND/OR OVERNIGHT STORAGE

Ideally samples for Biochemistry and Haematology investigations should be transported to the Laboratory on the day of collection, however, this is not always possible.

The following table provides information on how samples should be prepared for storage/stored and for how long to ensure that quality and integrity is maintained between collection and transportation.

INVESTIGATIONS	SPECIMEN CONTAINER REQUIRED	PREPARATION AND STORAGE CONDITIONS POST SAMPLE COLLECTION	STABILITY BETWEEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORTATION TO LAB
Routine Biochemistry Investigations requiring Centrifugation and Storage: Urea & Electrolytes (UEs) Creatinine (CRN) Liver Function Tests (LFT) Bone Group (B) C-Reactive Protein (CRP) Ferritin (FER) B12 & Serum Folate (SFOL) Amylase (AMY) Thyroid Function Tests (T) Lipid Profile (LIP) Cholesterol (CHO) HDL Cholesterol (HDLC)	Yellow topped SST Tube 	Samples should be allowed to clot for 30mins but spun within 2 hours of collection Store in Fridge @ 2-8° C	24 hours

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Biochemistry Investigations requiring storage only: Fasting Plasma Glucose Random Plasma Glucose	Grey topped Fluoride Tube 	Leave sample as whole blood Store in Fridge @ 2-8 ⁰ C	24 hours
Haematology Investigations requiring storage only: Full Blood Count ESR	Purple Topped EDTA Tube 	Leave sample as whole blood Store in Fridge @ 2-8 ⁰ C	24 hours

2. CENTRIFUGATION SPEED AND DURATIONS

Up to date information relating to required speed and duration of various sample types can be found at [resource.aspx \(bd.com\)](https://www.bd.com/resources/centrifugation).

3. SUSPECTED LEAK OR BREAKAGE

- If a sample leak or breakage in the centrifuge is suspected, leave the lid closed for 30 minutes to allow any aerosols to settle.
- If there has been a sample leak or breakage, the centrifuge must be cleaned.
- Remove all sample holders and wash in a disinfectant. It is important to make sure they are rinsed thoroughly in water. Leave to air dry.
- Wipe out the bowl of centrifuge with disinfectant and then again with water.
- Once clean and dry, place the holders back into the rotor. Note that with swing-out rotors, all rotor positions must be filled with identical sample holders.

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If there are any issues requiring further assistance, please contact either:
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Technical issues should be raised with Henderson Biomedical on 020 8663 4610.