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Factors that may affect performance of assays or result interpretation

- Samples must be taken in the appropriate manner and volumes
- Samples must be appropriately labelled
- Lack of relevant clinical details
- Samples placed in inappropriate containers or anticoagulants
- Samples will be adversely affected by delay in receipt
- Samples will be adversely affected by heat/cold degradation
- Lipaemic or haemolysed samples will adversely affect serology investigations
- Clotted samples or samples containing fibrin strands will affect results
- Samples taken into one anticoagulant and then transferred into another e.g. Heparin into EDTA.
- Samples not stored in the correct manner (eg fridged) will be affected.
- Consumables not stored at the correct temperature will affect results (eg MRSA broths and blood culture bottles).