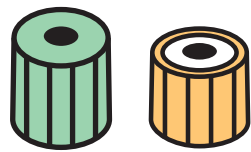


Specimen Integrity | Avoid Canceled Tests

Centrifuge Guide

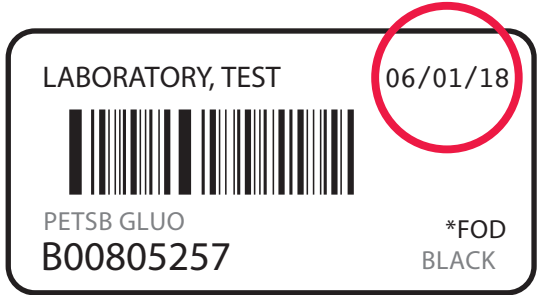


- Immediately after draw
- 15 minutes, swing (horizontal) bucket
 - 20 minutes, fixed angle
 - Balance the centrifuge
 - Use water filled tubes to balance as needed
 - Do not ship balance tubes

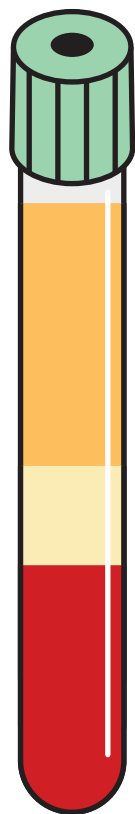


After specimen completely clots
(min ½ hr to max 2 hrs after draw)

Label Date Must Reflect
Actual Collection Date



Properly Centrifuged



Plasma (the clear yellow part) contains no red blood cells

Gel is firmly wedged against sides separating plasma from red blood cells

Red blood cells are below gel barrier

Always centrifuge before refrigerating



Must Redraw

Unspun

Gel on bottom of tube;
no separation

Forgot to centrifuge
Centrifugation not performed at all
Centrifuge not balanced



Must Redraw

Unspun
Left Standing

Gel on bottom of tube;
no separation

Tube left standing upright (plasma and cells separated and gel remains at the bottom)



Must Redraw

Poorly Spun

Plasma/Serum is pink or red; there is no complete gel barrier

Not centrifuged long enough
Not centrifuged at correct speed
Centrifuge not balanced

Other Unacceptable Tubes

Quantity Not Sufficient (QNS)

Causes
Nominal fill range not met

How to Avoid
Use visual guide for nominal fill range
Clear all air out of line by partially filling a discard tube
Do not remove specimen tube until vacuum is exhausted



Nominal fill range

Clots Adhere to Tube When Tilted

Causes
Tube not inverted immediately after draw
Micro-clots may also occur which can only be detected at the laboratory

How to Avoid
Invert tube gently 8-10 times immediately after draw



Hemolysis: Plasma/Serum is pink or red

Causes
Tube inverted too forcefully
Direct contact with ice packs
Difficult draw or cannulation
Obstruction to blood flow such as thrombosis, stenosis or occluded catheters

How to Avoid
Invert tube gently
Do not allow direct contact with ice packs during shipping

