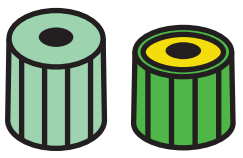
ASCEND

Specimen Integrity | Avoid Canceled Tests

Centrifuge Guide

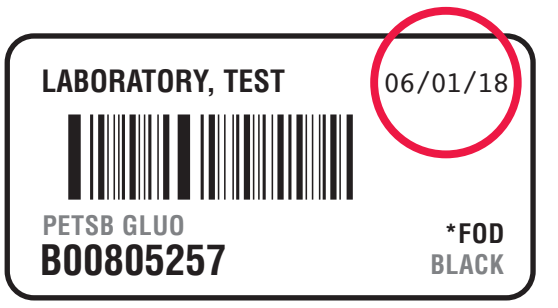


Immediately after draw

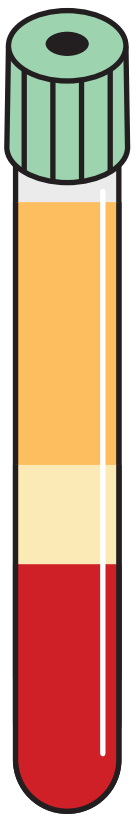
- 15 minutes, swing (horizontal) bucket
- 20 minutes, fixed angle
- Balance the centrifuge
- Use water filled tubes to balance as needed
- Do not ship balance tubes

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

Unspun

Gel on bottom of tube; no separation

Forgot to centrifuge
Centrifugation not performed at all
Centrifuge not balanced

Unspun Left Standing

Gel on bottom of tube; no separation

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

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

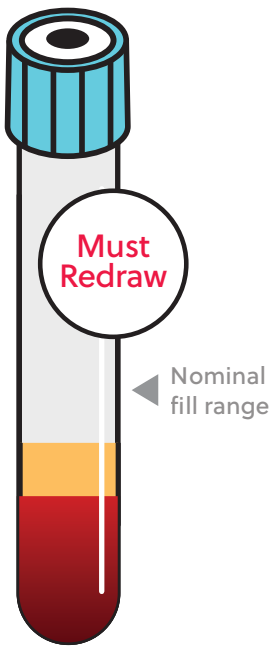
Quantity Not Sufficient (QNS)

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



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

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IT'S TIME TO ASCEND.

REV.2018.05