



NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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HEPATITIS C BLOOD SPECIMENS: INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTION AND TRANSPORTATION

****MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE PHL WITHIN 48 HOURS OF COLLECTION****

Specimen: 3 – 5 ml serum

Procedure for Collection:

1. Identify the patient and perform venipuncture using standard aseptic technique.
2. Fill SST Vacutainer tubes with the correct amount of blood (*preferably two 10 ml tubes*).
3. Label the tubes with the patient's name and date and time of collection.
4. Verify that the name on the tube and the name on the requisition are the same and correlate with the patient whose blood was drawn. Verify that spelling is the same on the tubes and the requisition form.
5. Fill out all the requisition form completely and legibly. Assure complete Primary Care Physician information is included with address and phone number.
6. Assure the date(s) of the cardiac/vascular procedure is noted and the patient has signed the consent section. If specimen collection is from an employee, please note that on the requisition. If specimen is for testing following an initial negative test result (4 weeks or 6 months after initial testing), please note that on the requisition.

Procedure for Transport*:

7. SAMPLES MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE NH PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES **WITHIN 48 HOURS OF COLLECTION**. SPECIMENS RECEIVED BEYOND 48 HOURS AFTER COLLECTION WILL BE REJECTED. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS, PLEASE CALL THE LAB AT 603-271-2764 OR 603-271-4661.
8. SST tubes MUST be centrifuged prior to transport.
9. All specimens must be shipped in a leak-proof container. Place the properly labeled blood tubes into a leak-proof container. (Make sure there is enough absorbent material available to cushion tubes and contain specimen should there be any breakage of the tubes.)
10. Secure the requisition form on the **outside** of the leak-proof container.
11. Insert the leak-proof container into a rigid outer container suitable for transport.
12. Store specimens at 4-8° C until transport.
13. If transporting via courier, place specimens in cooler with cold pack. If shipping via US Mail or FedEx, please provide a cool pack within the rigid outer container.
14. For any questions concerning specimen collection or transportation call 603-271-2764 or 603-271-4661

*All specimens including blood from patients known or suspected of being infected with Hepatitis must be packaged and shipped as "**Biological Substances, Category B**" according to IATA Packing Instruction 650.