

Laboratory Handbook

Auburn - New South Wales Laboratory
Medlab Pathology Laboratory
3-5 Rawson Street
Auburn NSW 2144 Australia
Tel: (02) 8745 6500
Tel: 1300 MEDLAB (1300 633 522)
Fax: (02) 8745 6599

Brisbane - Queensland Laboratory
Medlab Pathology Laboratory
280 Newmarket Road
Wilston QLD 4051 Australia
Tel: 1300 MEDLAB (1300 633 522)
Fax: 1300 633 544

www.medlab.com.au

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Introduction

Dear Colleague,

Please find herewith a copy of our “Laboratory Handbook”.

We believe that you will find this user-friendly reference guide for collection requirements very useful.

We welcome your feedback regarding this publication and please feel free to contact the Laboratory Manager or one of our Pathologists with comments or criticism.

Medlab is a truly INDEPENDENT PATHOLOGY PRACTICE and we take pride in providing comprehensive, superior quality pathology service to the medical profession, using the latest cutting edge technology. Medlab is deeply committed to maintaining professional and technical excellence, personalised service and the highest ethical standards.

Kind Regards

Dr. K. P. Singh
FRCPA, FACTM, DSM
Medical Director (APP)

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Laboratory Personnel

Dr Kumar P Singh	Medical Director Microbiology/Serology
Dr Tony Watt	Anatomical Pathology Supervising Pathologist (QLD)
Dr Richard Williamson	Anatomical Pathology
Dr Nick Mellick	Anatomical Pathology
Dr Rohan Mortimore	Anatomical Pathology
Dr John Lukin	Anatomical Pathology
Dr Inta McConachie	Anatomical/Cytopathology
Dr Luke Soo	Haematology/Blood Bank
Dr Danny Hsu	Haematology/Blood Bank
Dr Ean Ooi	Haematology/Blood Bank
Dr Man Yuk Ho	Haematology/Blood Bank
Dr Shane Kelly	Immunology
Mr Dinesh Bhatta	General Manager Operations (NSW & QLD)
Mr Mannu Kala	General Manager (QLD)
Mr Amro Atia	Laboratory Manager (QLD)
Mrs Marilyn Mungovan	Laboratory Manager (NSW)
Mr Michael Adamson	Operations Manager (QLD)
Dr Sree Murthy	Senior Scientist Chemistry/Endocrinology
Mr Rajendra Parmar	Senior Scientist Microbiology/Serology/Molecular
Ms Zena Rahhal	Senior Scientist Haematology/Blood Bank
Mr William Chen	Senior Scientist Cytology
Mr Iain Jupp	Senior Scientist Core Lab (QLD)
Ms Caron Charlesworth	Marketing Services Manager
Dr Anthony J Michael	Business Development Services
Mr Jonathan Garcia	Collections Manager (NSW)

Laboratory Hours of Operation

Auburn - New South Wales Laboratory

Monday to Friday 6:00 am – 2:00 am

Saturday 6:00 am – 10:00pm

Sunday and 8:00 am – 8:00pm

Public Holidays

Brisbane - Queensland Laboratory

Monday to Friday 6:00 am – 2:00 am

Saturday 6:00 am – 10:00pm

Sunday and 8:00 am – 8:00pm

Public Holidays

Accredited Collection Centres

Please check our web site at www.medlab.com.au for the most up to date information regarding our collection centres.

Home Visits

For patient convenience we can arrange to have a pathology collector attend the patient's home, hospital or work place to have their pathology samples collected. Please call the Laboratory on 1300 MEDLAB (1300 633 522) to organise these visits.

Courier Service

Courier Specimen/Pickups Call 1300 MEDLAB (1300 633 522).

Stores Order

Please contact our Stores Department on 1300 MEDLAB (1300 633 522).

To order supplies, send a completed supply order form with our courier service.

Specimen Transport and Storage

Most specimens should be transported in specimen bags and stored as follows:

Blood samples, Urine and Faeces samples: 2 – 8 C

Swabs, smears, semen samples, Biopsies,

Urea Breath tests and Cold agglutinins: Room Temperature

Blood Cultures: 37 C

Some specimens require special attention. See instructions under the individual tests or phone the Laboratory.

Taxis

When transporting samples to the lab by taxi, specimens should be transported in a foam esky with an ice brick enclosed, **NOT** as loose specimen bags.

Specimen Collection

Correct labelling of all specimens is essential as per NATA/RCPA requirements. **Patient surname, first name, date of birth, address/MRN** are the minimal requirements for identification.

Medicare number and surgery UR number should be included on the request slip for further identification purposes.

Time and date of specimen collection are now required (for accreditation) by NATA to be indicated on samples and request slips.

Checking of the patient's identity is important, particularly with cross matches and blood groups. The identification of these specimens must be checked by another responsible person or by the patient themselves.

Glass Slides (Pap smears, Blood films, etc) should be labelled in pencil, with the patient's full name and date of birth.

Results

Hardcopies of reports are delivered several times per day through our courier network. Electronic downloads of results are available to computerised practices. Please contact our IT Department if you require electronic results.

Turn Around Time (TAT)

- For all **urgent** requests the TAT is within 2 hours from the time the samples are received in the Laboratory. (Histopathology TAT is longer - up to 24 hours)
- For all routine samples TAT is same day or within 24-Hours.
- For some special tests the TAT is indicated in the tests table.

Reference Ranges

Reference ranges for certain tests are subject to change from time to time as methodologies and technologies improve and change. At the time of publication all reference ranges were correct.

HIC/Medicare Requirements For Certain Tests

MBS Item	Test Name	MBS Rules and Comments
65175	Activated Protein C (APC) Resistance	Patient has a history of venous thromboembolism
65175	Anti-thrombin	Patient has a history of venous thromboembolism
66819	Copper, Zinc, Manganese, Selenium	3 patient episodes in 6 month period
73300	Factor V Leiden Gene Mutation PCR	Proven venous thrombosis or pulmonary embolism
69345	Faeces for culture and	Culture – 1 request in a 7 day period
69336	Ova, Cysts and Parasites	OCP – 2 requests in a 7 day period
69339	(OCP) examination	
66719	Free T4 (FT4); Free T3 (FT3)	At least one of the following conditions is satisfied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the patient has an abnormal level of TSH; (b) the tests are performed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) for the purpose of monitoring thyroid disease in the patient; or (ii) to investigate the sick euthyroid syndrome if the patient is an admitted patient; or (iii) to investigate dementia or psychiatric illness of the patient; or (iv) to investigate amenorrhoea or infertility of the patient; (c) the medical practitioner who requested the tests suspects the patient has a pituitary dysfunction; (d) the patient is on drugs that interfere with thyroid hormone metabolism or function

MBS Item	Test Name	MBS Rules and Comments
66557	Fructosamine	Maximum of 4 tests in a 12 month period for established diabetes
66554	HbA1c (in pregnancy)	Maximum of 6 tests in a 12 month period for established diabetes in pregnancy
69418	HPV	<p>A test for high risk human papillomaviruses can be bulk billed in a patient who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has received excisional or ablative treatment for high grade squamous intraepithelial lesions (HSIL) of the cervix within the last two years; • or who within the last two years has had a positive HPV test after excisional • or ablative treatment for the HSIL of the cervix; • or is already undergoing annual cytological review for the follow-up of a previously treated HSIL. • To a maximum of 2 of this item in a 24 month period. (Item is subject to rule 25)
66900	Urea Breath Test	<p>This test will attract a Medicare benefit payment in the following situations:</p> <p>Confirmation of H.pylori colonisation: Where suitable biopsy material for diagnosis cannot be obtained at endoscopy in patients with peptic ulcer disease, or where diagnosis of peptic ulcer has been made on barium meal or in patients with past history of duodenal ulcer, gastric ulcer or gastric neoplasia, where endoscopy is not indicated.</p> <p>Monitoring of success of eradication of H.pylori in patients with PUD. Please ensure indication(s) for the test are clearly written on the request form</p>




MBS Item	Test Name	MBS Rules and Comments
69491	Hepatitis C virus (HCV) genotype	(a) the patient is HCV RNA positive and is being evaluated for antiviral therapy of chronic HCV hepatitis; and (b) the request for the test is made by, or on the advice of, the specialist or consultant physician managing the treatment of the patient; Maximum of 1 test in a 12 month period
71075	Immunoglobulin E (IgE) - Total	2 patient episodes in a 12 month period
71057	Protein EPG	1 specimen type collected within a 28 day period
66655	Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) – Total (Screening)	1 patient episode in a 12 month period
66660	PSA (Total and Free)	Result between age-related reference limit and 10 ug/ml 4 patient episodes in a 12 month period
71079	Specific IgE antibodies to single or multiple allergens (RAST)	4 patient episodes in a 12 month period
66626	Urine Drug Screen (UDS) - monitoring	36 patient episodes in a 12 month period
66599	Vitamin B12, Serum Folate	3 patient episodes (any test combination) in a 12 month period
66833	Vitamin D	As per Medicare Benefits Schedule, the quantification of Vitamin D in Serum is for the investigation of a patient who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has signs or symptoms of osteoporosis or osteomalacia; or • has increased alkaline phosphate and otherwise normal liver function tests; or • has hyperparathyroidism, hypo- or hypercalcaemia, or hypophosphataemia; or • is suffering from malabsorption (for example, because the patient has cystic fibrosis, short bowel syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease or untreated coeliac disease, <i>continued over.</i>




MBS Item	Test Name	MBS Rules and Comments
66833	Vitamin D continued	<p>or has had bariatric surgery); or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has deeply pigmented skin, or chronic and severe lack of sun exposure for cultural, medical, occupational, or residential reasons; or • is taking medication known to decrease 25OH-D levels (for example, anticonvulsants); or • has chronic renal failure or is a renal transplant recipient; or • is less than 16 years of age and has signs or symptoms of rickets; or • is an infant whose mother has established vitamin D deficiency; or • is an exclusively breastfed baby and has at least one other risk factor mentioned in a paragraph in this item; or • has a sibling who is less than 16 years of age and has Vitamin D deficiency. <p>Kindly ensure this test is written on the request form.</p>

PLEASE NOTE: Information is subject to change without notice. For latest and most up-to-date information, always refer to your current MBS documents, or online at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/Content/Medicare-Benefits-Schedule-MBS-I>

Collection Chart






Order of draw (Recommended)

Stopper Colour	Tube Description	Common Use	Special Instructions
	Coag tube 3.2% Sodium Citrate	Coagulation Studies: PT, PI, INR, APTT, Coagulation studies, D Dimer Other: Lupus Anti-coagulant (please collect 5 tubes for these tests) Factor Assays, Protein C and S, Factor V Leiden (APCR)	Mix well gently. <u>1.8 ml only please.</u> The vacuum is set to deliver 1.8ml only this is the correct ratio of blood/sodium citrate solution. NOTE: When using a winged blood collection set for venepuncture a separate sodium citrate tube is drawn and DISCARDED to allow for elimination of dead space within tube. <i>MIX SAMPLE GENTLY 8 - 10 TIMES</i>
	Serum gel SST	Clinical Chemistry: Routine Biochemistry analysis. (LFT, EUC, TFT, Chol and Trigs, HDL, Cardiac Enzymes, Amylase, CRP, Iron Studies etc.) Serology/Immunology/Endocrinology: (ENA, DNA, TGAB etc), Hormones, Anticardiolipin Antibodies	<i>MIX SAMPLE GENTLY 8 - 10 TIMES</i> Then stand for 15 minutes before centrifuging
	E.D.T.A. tube	Haematology: FBC, ESR, WCC, Diff, Platelets, Malarial Parasites, HbEPG, Reticulocyte count. Blood Group Rh Antibodies (2 tubes), Factor V Leiden Gene Mutation and Prothrombin Gene Mutation test. Clinical Chemistry: HbA1c (Glycosylated Haemoglobin) Heavy Metals, (requires 2 tubes), Red Cell Folate, HLAB27 (Mon-Thurs). Haemochromatosis Gene analysis Molecular: HBV-DNA, HepC RNA (2 x EDTA)	<i>MIX SAMPLE GENTLY 8 - 10 TIMES</i>

Stopper Colour	Tube Description	Common Use	Special Instructions
	Glucose tube Sodium fluoride	Clinical Chemistry: Glucose testing, GTT, Glucose load tests	Mix well gently. Please specify on form if fasting or non-fasting and any glucose load given to patient. <i>MIX SAMPLE GENTLY 8 - 10 TIMES</i>
	Heparin tube Lithium Heparin	Cytogenetics (Chromosomes). R.T. Fragile X Vitamins A E C and K	NB. Sydney Genetics ONLY , collect 2 x EDTA's (for Chromosomes) Mon - Thurs Only. Tubes for vitamins should be shielded from the light, wrapping in aluminium foil is recommended. <i>MIX SAMPLE GENTLY 8 - 10 TIMES</i>
	ACD tube	T Cells DLAQ Gene	Mon - Thurs Only. <i>MIX SAMPLE GENTLY 8 - 10 TIMES</i>
	Navy Blue Trace Metal	Zinc	 <i>MIX SAMPLE GENTLY 8 - 10 TIMES</i>

Regulatory rules require that all specimens have at least three forms of identification. We recommend full name, date of birth, address / MRN as the three forms of identification.

For specimen requirements of unusual tests please contact the laboratory: 1300 633 522.

Code	Stopper Colour	Determinations	Instructions
108CIS	 <p>Blue Top Clear Amies, Plastic Applicator</p>	Used for routine bacterial culture e.g. pus, wound/skin, ear, nose, throat and eye Swabs	Not suitable for viral culture
155CIS	 <p>White Cap Plastic Swab, Rayon Applicator</p>	Dry Swab suitable for PCR (Herpes, Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, Varicella Zoster and Pertussis)	Not suitable for viral or bacterial culture
147CV	 <p>Green Top Viral Swab</p>	Use for any viral PCR. Suitable for HSV, VZV, EBV, Measles, HPV and Respiratory viruses PCR. Also suitable for viral culture	Not suitable for bacterial culture
160CIS	 <p>Orange Top Plastic Swab, Aluminium Applicator</p>	Use for naso-pharyngeal specimen (Pertussis PCR). If used for urethral cultures (e.g. N.gonorrhoeae) must be placed into Transport Medium	Suitable for PCR (if culture required, transfer the Swab to tube with Transport Medium)
	 <p>THIN PREP VIAL</p>	Thin prep vial solution in addition to being used for Cytology related procedures are also required for HPV-DNA testing. Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea PCR can be performed	Follow same collection instructions for any of the tests listed

Pathology Tests In Alphabetical Order

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Acetylcholine Receptor Antibody (ACHR)	10ml Clotted Blood (Serum)-Transport on Ice	Gold SST Weekly
Acid Fast Bacilli (AFB)	Sputum-see Mycobacteria testing for appropriate specimens. Sputum, Swab, Stool, Urine	Tissue Done Weekly
ACTH (Adrenocorticotrophic Hormone)	10ml EDTA blood. Refrigerate. Mix tube Thoroughly. Spin and FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Lavender Done Daily
Actinomyces Culture	Tissue, Pus	Transport at once Keep anaerobic (contact lab)
Activated Partial Thromboplastin time (APTT)	1.8ml blood in Sodium Citrate tube. Small sample volumes are not acceptable for testing. Sample should arrive at Laboratory within 4 hours of collection	Light Blue Done Daily
Adenovirus PCR Direct Antigen Detection	Random Faeces sample	Brown Top Jar
Adenovirus Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Every Second Day

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Adrenaline / Noradrenaline	Special CATS tube required – contact Laboratory	CATS tube (Orange) special tube from RPAH Done Weekly
Adrenaline / Noradrenaline	24-Hour Urine (Acid preservative)	Done Weekly
Adrenal Antibodies	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Weekly
ALA-Urine (Aminolevulinic Acid)	10ml early morning Urine-No preservative-collect during symptoms keep in the dark	Yellow Top Jar Done Weekly
Alanine Transaminase (ALT)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
ALBUMIN (Serum)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
ALBUMIN (Urine)	Urine (Random) No preservative. Yellow Top Jar OR 24-Hour Urine	Yellow Top Jar. 24-Hour Urine Bottle. No preservative
ALCOHOL see ETHANOL		
Aldosterone (Plasma)	10ml Lithium Heparin blood OR Serum (Clotted Blood)	Gold SST Done Weekly
Aldosterone	24-Hour Urine (Acid preservative)	24-Hour Urine Bottle Done Weekly

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Aldosterone/ Renin ratio	10ml Lithium Heparin or Clotted Blood and 2 x EDTA. Transport to lab ASAP. Refrigerate	Gold SST + Lavender x 2 Done Weekly
Alkaline phosphatase (ALP)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Weekly
Allergy Serology (RAST)	Clotted Blood (Serum) See Allergen Panels (page 68)	Gold SST
ALP ISOEnzymes	5ml Clotted Blood. Prefer patient to be fasting. Not carried out if ALP is normal	Gold SST Done Weekly on demand
Alpha-1-Antitrypsin	Faeces Transport frozen	Brown Top Jar Done Weekly
Alpha-1- Antitrypsin	Clotted Blood (Serum) Genotype	Gold SST EDTA Twice Weekly
AFP Amniotic fluid	2ml amniotic fluid	
Alpha Fetoprotein (AFP)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Aluminium-Urine	24-Hour Urine in acid washed bottle. 10ml early morning Urine for spot Urine	Acid washed bottle (contact lab) Done Weekly
Aluminium	2 x 5ml EDTA	Lavender Done Weekly
Amiodarone	Clotted Blood (Serum) Collect just before next dose or at least 6 hours post dose	Gold SST Done Weekly (Wednesday)

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Ammonia	10ml Lithium Heparin blood OR 5ml Clotted Blood	Green/Gold SST
Amitriptyline	Clotted Blood (Serum) Collect just before next dose or at least 6 hours post dose	Gold SST Done Weekly
Amoebiasis Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done in Batches
Amphetamines	Urine (Random)	Yellow Top Jar
Amphetamines – Blood	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Red (No Gel) Done Monthly
Amylase	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Amylase Total-Urine	24 hr Urine-thymol preservative	24-Hour Urine Bottle
ANCA	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Androgens	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Androstenedione	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Weekly
Angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done 1-2 times per month
Anion gap	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Daily

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Antenatal Profile - Includes FBC, Blood Group, Antibody Screen, Rubella IgG, HbsAg, Anti-treponemal Antibody, Hep CAb	5ml EDTA and Clotted Blood (Serum) For Blood group/Antibody screen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collector needs to sign separate declaration form • Label tubes (hand written) full name, Date of birth (DOB), time of collection, collectors signature 	Lavender + Gold SST
Antibody screen/ identification (Rh Antibody)	2 x 5ml EDTA For blood group/Antibody screen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collector needs to sign separate declaration form • Label tubes (hand written) full name, Date of birth (DOB), time of collection, collectors signature 	Lavender
Anti-Cardiolipin Ab IgG/IgM	Clotted Blood (Serum) See Cardiolipin Antibodies	Gold SST
Anti CCP	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Anti-DNA Antibodies	See also DNA ANTIBODIES Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Twice Weekly (Tue and Fri)
Anti-DNASE B, Titre	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Twice Weekly (Tue and Fri)
Anti-diuretic Hormone (ADH)	10ml EDTA (2 x 5ml) Blood collected on ice (Plasma) + Gel tube for osmolality. FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Lavender and Gold SST Fortnightly
Antinuclear Antibody (ANA)	10ml Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Anti-Parietal Cell Antibodies	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Anti Phospholipid Antibody	1 Gel tube plus 3 citrate tubes	Gold SST 3 x Light Blue Done Twice Weekly
Anti-Smooth Muscle Antibodies	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Anti sperm Antibody	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Fortnightly
Antisperm Antibody	Seminal Sample	Yellow Top Jar
Antistreptolysin O Titre (ASOT)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Antithrombin III (AT3)	2 x 1.8ml blood in Sodium Citrate tubes. Sample requirements as for APTT	Blue Citrate tube Done Fortnightly
Apolipoprotein A and B	Clotted Blood (Serum) NO MEDICARE REBATE	Gold SST Done Weekly
APTT	1.8ml Citrated blood for INR and APTT. Must be received within 4 hours of collection	Blue Citrate tube
Arbovirus Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Fortnightly
Arsenic	2 x 5ml EDTA	Lavender Done Weekly
Arthropod Identification	Yellow Top sterile jar Entire mite to be placed in jar	Yellow Top Jar
Aspartate Transaminase (AST)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Aspergillus Precipitins	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Twice Weekly (Wed/ Fri)
Aspergillus Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Twice Weekly (Wed/ Fri)
Aspergillus (tissue)	See Fungal Culture	Yellow Top Jar
Auto Antibodies (Listed alphabetically under individual assays)		Gold SST
Avian precipitins	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Twice Weekly (Wed/ Fri)
Barbiturates	Urine (Random)	Yellow Top Jar
Barmah forest Virus Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Every 2nd Days
B12 (vitamin B12)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Bence Jones Protein	Urine	Yellow Top Jar
Beta Human Chorionic Gonadotrophin	See Pregnancy Test	Gold SST
Beta-2- Microglobulin (blood)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Beta-2- Microglobulin (Urine)	Patient should empty bladder, then drink large glass of water. Collect 10ml Urine one hour later	Yellow Top Jar
Bicarbonate	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Bile acids	Clotted Blood (Serum) - Fasting sample preferred NO MEDICARE REBATE	Gold SST Done Weekly
Bilharzia (schistosomiasis)	Faeces Urine	Brown Top Jar Yellow Top Jar
Bilharzia Serology (Schistosomiasis)	Clotted Blood (Serum) 6 months after exposure	Gold SST Done Every Thu
BILIRUBIN, direct (Conjugated)	Clotted Blood (Serum) Wrap in foil to keep out sunlight FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Gold SST
Bile Acids (Total)	Clotted Blood (Serum) Fasting sample preferred NO MEDICARE REBATE	Gold SST Done Weekly
BILIRUBIN, total	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Blood culture	Blood collected up to mark into culture bottle. Store at room temperature	Blood Culture Bottle
Blood film	5ml EDTA blood. Store refrigerated. Mix tube thoroughly	Lavender
Blood group	5ml EDTA. Please indicate if Blood Group Card is required	Lavender

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Blood group and antibodies. Blood group card	5ml EDTA blood. Please indicate if Blood Group Card is required. Needs signed declaration form and hand written with full name, DOB, time of collection and signed by collector	Lavender
Bordetella Pertussis Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Bordetella Pertussis PCR	Throat or Nasopharyngeal Swab	White Cap DRY SWAB
Breast aspirate – Fine needle	Collected by Pathologist or Cyto-technologist	Yellow Top Jar
Brucellosis group Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Fortnightly
C3	See COMPLEMENT	Gold SST
C4	See COMPLEMENT	Gold SST
C peptide	Clotted Blood (Serum) FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Gold SST
C-Reactive Protein (CRP)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
CI esterase inhibitor (cI inhibitor)	10ml Clotted Blood (Serum) FREEZE SERUM AT MEDLAB	Gold SST Done Weekly
Ca19-9	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Ca 125	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Ca 15-3	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
CADMIUM – blood	5ml EDTA blood	Lavender Done Weekly
Cadmium	24-Hour Urine	Done Weekly
Calcitonin	10ml Clotted Blood (Serum) FREEZE SERUM AT MEDLAB	Gold SST Done Weekly
CALCIUM (total Serum)	Clotted Blood (Serum). Avoid Venostasis. Separate and store refrigerated	Gold SST
CALCIUM – Urine	24-Hour Urine no added acid	24-Hour Urine Bottle Done Weekly
CALCULI – Urinary	Complete calculi in dry container	Yellow Top Jar Done Weekly
Candida Antibody Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Every 2 Days
Cannabinoid (THC)	Urine (Random)	Yellow Top specimen jar (Synthetic cannabinoids not included)
Carbamazepine (Tegretol)	Clotted Blood (Serum) Collect immediately prior to next dose. Record time of last dose and time of collection	Gold SST
CARBOXYHAEMOGL OBIN – Blood	5ml Lithium Heparin blood or EDTA whole blood	Lavender

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Carcinoembryonic Antigen (CEA)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Cardiac Enzymes (CE)	Clotted Blood (Serum) Troponin I	Gold SST
Cardiolipin Antibody	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Weekly (Wed)
Carotene	10ml Clotted Blood (Serum) Separate and store refrigerated. Cover in foil to protect from light	Gold SST Done Twice Weekly
Cat scratch disease Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Every 2 days
Catecholamines - Urine	24-Hour Urine (Acid preservative)	24-Hour Urine Bottle Done Weekly
Catecholamines (Plasma)	Phone Laboratory for special collection requirements, or CATS tube with crystals inside. Plasma Frozen FREEZE AT MEDLAB EDTA acceptable	Orange Contact Laboratory for tubes. Done Weekly
CD4 Count	5ml EDTA blood	Lavender
Ceruloplasmin	Clotted Blood (Serum) Separate and store refrigerated	Gold SST
Cervical Culture - Swab 1.bacterial 2.viral (see HSV)	Collect Swabs during speculum examination from the endocervical canal. Store at room temperature	Swab Done Weekly
Cervical Cytology - Smear	Slide must be labelled in pencil and sample fixed immediately	Glass Slide

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Chikunguniya Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Chlamydia Serology (non STI)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Chlamydia PCR	Collect PCR dry Swab - urethral (male), endocervical (female) or Urine. Urine - early morning first catch specimen preferred Anal/Throat Swab	Aptima Specimen transfer tube - Green Cap (For Swabs) White Cap (Dry) Swab OR Yellow Top Jar Aptima Urine Specimen Transport Tube (Yellow Cap)
Chloride	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Cholesterol (Chol)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Cholesterol: HDL and LDL	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Cholinesterase	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Chromium	EDTA - whole blood	Lavender Done Weekly
Chromium	24-Hour Urine in an acid washed bottle	24-Hour Urine Bottle Done Weekly
Chromosome analysis - See Cytogenetics	Lithium Heparin blood or EDTA (whole blood)	Green or Lavender
Clomipramine	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Clonazepam	Clotted Blood (Serum) Collect immediately prior to next dose. Note time of last dose and collection time on request form. Separate and store refrigerated	Gold SST (No Gel)
Clostridium difficile toxin / Antigen	Faeces in Brown top container	Brown Top Jar
Clozapine	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Coagulation Mixing Test	2 x 1.8ml Citrate blood	Light Blue
Coagulation studies (COAG)	1.8ml blood in Sodium Citrate tube. Sample should arrive at Laboratory within 4 hours of collection. Withhold all Salicylate (Aspirin) for 48 hours prior to collection	Light Blue
Cobalt	EDTA Blood	Lavender
Codeine	Spot Urine	Yellow Top Jar
Coeliac Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Cold Agglutinins - blood	4 x EDTA blood and 1 x Clotted Blood (Serum) Specimen must clot at 37°C until clot retracts. Pipette Serum immediately into a Serum tube. Attach Serum tube to clot (rubber bands) for transportation. Do not spin down EDTA. NOTE: write on tube that it has been collected and spun at 37°C. OR REFER PATIENT TO NEAREST MEDLAB COLLECTION CENTRE	Red (not gel) + Lavender
Complement components (C3, C4)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Copper (Blood)	5ml EDTA or Trace metal tube	Lavender OR Navy Blue
Copper (Urine)	24-Hour Urine with an acid washed bottle	24 hr Urine Bottle Done Weekly
Cortisol (Blood)	Clotted Blood (Serum). Time of collection must be clearly written on the tube and the request form for appropriate interpretation	Gold SST
Cortisol (Urine)	24-Hour Urine (No preservative)	24 hr Urine Bottle Done Weekly
Cotinine	Clotted Blood (Serum) or whole blood (EDTA) or Urine. Blood preferred	Red(no gel) or Lavender Done Weekly
Coxsackie Virus Serology Hand Foot and Mouth Disease	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Every 2 days

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Coxsackie Virus PCR, Hand Foot and Mouth Disease	Dry Swab	White Cap
C-Peptide	Clotted Blood (Serum) FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Gold SST
C-Reactive Protein (CRP)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Creatine Kinase (CK)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Creatine Kinase Isoenzymes	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Weekly
Creatinine (CREAT)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Creatinine Clearance	24-Hour Urine (No preservative) + 5ml Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST + 24-Hour Urine Bottle
Cryoglobulins	Clotted Blood kept at 37C until fully clotted. Pipette Serum immediately. Inform Haematology before collecting.	Gold SST + Lavender
Cryptococcus antigen	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Cyclosporin	5ml EDTA blood. Mix blood thoroughly	Lavender
Cysteine	10ml early morning Urine. Do not freeze	Yellow Top Jar
Cystic Fibrosis PCR	EDTA Blood (transport at room temperature)	Lavender Done Weekly

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
CYTOGENETICS (CHROMOSOME STUDIES) – blood	10ml blood in sterile heparinised tube. Do not separate or refrigerate. Must arrive at Laboratory ASAP. Mon-Thurs Collection Only	Green
Cytomegalovirus Serology (CMV)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Cytomegalovirus PCR (CMV PCR)	5ml EDTA Plasma/ Whole Blood. NOT TO BE SPUN	Lavender Done Weekly
Cytotoxic Allergy Test	4.5ml blood in Sodium Citrate tube	Contact Laboratory - Special Tube
D-Dimer	1.8ml blood in Sodium Citrate tube and send within 4 hours of collection (as for INR etc)	Light Blue
Dehydroepiandrosterone Sulfate (DHEAS)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Dengue fever Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Every 2nd Days
Dexamethasone suppression test	Contact Laboratory	
DIGOXIN - Serum	Clotted Blood (Serum) Not Gel Tube Minimum 8 hours after last dose	Red (No Gel)
Dihydro Testosterone (DHT)	Clotted Blood (Serum), OR Lithium Heparin blood	Gold SST/Green Done Weekly
Dilantin (Phenytoin)	Clotted Blood (Serum) Not Gel Tube Minimum 8 hours after last dose	Red (No Gel)
Diphtheria Antibody	5ml Serum NO MEDICARE REBATE	Lavender

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Direct Coombs test	5ml blood - EDTA Mix tube thoroughly	Lavender
DNA autoantibodies (DNA)	10ml Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Twice Weekly (Tue/Fri)
Downs Syndrome	See TRIPLE TEST FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Gold SST
Drug assay – Urine	20ml Urine (Random)	Yellow Top Jar
EAR,NOSE,EYE (Swab M/C/S)	Sterile Swab in transport media. Store and transport at room temperature	Blue Top Swab
ECG	Arrange with Laboratory	N/A
Electrolytes (Urine)	Spot Urine or 24-Hour Urine No preservative	Yellow Top Jar or 24-Hour Urine Bottle. Done Weekly
Electrophoresis (Protein)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Weekly
Electrophoresis - Urine (Urine EPG)	Spot Urine or 24-Hour Urine with No preservative	Yellow Top Jar or 24-Hour Urine Bottle. Done Weekly
Entamoeba Histolytica	Faeces (freshly passed) OCP	Brown Top Jar
Entamoeba Histolytica Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Enteric PCR	Stool	Brown Top Jar
Enterovirus	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Every 2 Days

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Epilim (Valproate)	Clotted Blood (Serum) Collect immediately prior to dose (Trough Level). Not Gel Tube	Red (No Gel)
Epstein Barr Virus Serology (EBV)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Epstein Barr Virus (EBV) PCR	Dry Swab (Throat Swab)	White Cap
Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR)	5ml EDTA Blood. Mix Tube Thoroughly	Lavender
Erythropoietin	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Estriol (E3)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Ethanol	Clotted Blood or Heparinised. If for legal purposes, an appropriate fee must be included (check with lab for amount)	Gold SST /Green or Grey (With Seal intact) if legal.
Ethanol (Urine)	Spot Urine or Random Urine	Yellow Top Jar
Extractable Nuclear Antigen (ENA)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Factor Assays	Contact Laboratory	
Factor V Leiden(APCR)	2 x Citrate and 1 x EDTA blood (separate from other tests)	Light Blue x 2 and Lavender Tops
Factor V Leiden Gene Mutation	1x EDTA (separate tube from other tests)	Lavender

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Faeces	Stool – please state MCS or OCP etc; collected in a brown top container	Brown Top Jar
Faecal Occult Blood	Faeces (x 3 collected on 3 separate/consecutive days preferred)	Brown Top Jar
Ferritin	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Fibrinogen	1.8ml blood in Sodium Citrate tube FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Light Blue
Fibrinogen Degradation Products(FDP)	1x Citrate tube (individual / separate tube)	Light Blue Cap
Filaria Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Every Tue
Flow Cytometry	ACD (Yellow Top) and EDTA blood	Yellow and Lavender Tops
Folate – red cell	5ml EDTA blood	Lavender
Folate	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Follicle Stimulating Hormone (FSH)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Fragile X	Lithium Heparin and EDTA blood. Store at room temperature	Lavender and Green Tops
Free Androgen Index (FAI)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Free PSA	Clotted Blood (Serum) Fresh sample (no add on testing)	Gold SST

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Free T3 and T4	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Free testosterone	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Fructosamine	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
FTA-ABS	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Full Blood Evaluation(FBE) / Count (FBC)	5ml EDTA Blood	Lavender
Fungal culture	Skin scraping or nail clipping	Yellow Top Jar
Full Blood Evaluation (FBE)	5ml EDTA Blood	Lavender
(Gastric) Parietal Cell Antibodies	Clotted Blood (Serum) FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Gold SST
Gastrin	Clotted Blood (Serum) FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Gold SST Done Fortnightly
Gene Mutation	EDTA blood (individual tube) Specify genetic test.	Lavender
Genital / Urethral Swab	Swab collected in Amies/ charcoal transport medium	Blue/Black Cap
Gentamicin level	Clotted Blood Trough-taken just before next dose. Peak-60mins after IM injection or 30mins after completion of IV infusion. ALWAYS URGENT	Red (No Gel)
Gestational Diabetes Test (Glucose Challenge Test)	1 hour Post 50g load (pregnant) Refer to Patient collection sheet	Grey

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Gladin Antibodies	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Glucose	Fluoride Oxalate Blood	Grey
Glucose 6 Phosphate Dehydrogenase (G6PD)	5ml EDTA Blood Less than 24-Hours old Mon-Thu collection ONLY	Lavender Done on request
Glucose tolerance test (GTT)	Fluoride Oxalate Blood Refer to patient collection sheet	Grey
Glycosylated Haemoglobin (GHb) HBA1C	EDTA whole blood	Lavender
Gonorrhoea PCR	Male: first void Urine or urethral Swab Female: cervical Swab or First void Urine Anal/Throat Swab	Aptima Specimen transfer tube - Green Cap (For Swabs) White Cap (Dry) Swab OR Yellow Top Jar Aptima Urine Specimen Transport Tube (Yellow Cap)
Group (see Blood Group)	EDTA Whole Blood	Lavender
Growth Hormone (GH)	Clotted Blood (Serum) FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Gold SST
Haematocrit (Hct)	5ml EDTA	Lavender
Haemochromatosis PCR	1x EDTA whole blood independent from FBE request	Lavender Done Fortnightly
Haemoglobin (Hb)	5ml EDTA	Lavender

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
HAEMOGLOBINA1C (HbA1c)	5ml EDTA whole blood	Lavender
Haemophilia Screen	(INR/APTT and Factor 8 performed). (Other tests order by name) 2 x citrate Plasma. Extra citrate if other related tests ordered	Light Blue
Haptoglobins	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Hb EPG (Haemoglobin Electrophoresis) (Thalassaemia Screen)	5ml EDTA preferably separate from FBE	Lavender
HDL – Cholesterol	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Helicobacter Pylori Breath Test	Breath test kit provided by Laboratory	
Helicobacter Pylori Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Hepatitis virus Serology (A, B, C, D, E)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Hepatitis B-DNA	EDTA (x 2) blood. Independent from FBE request. Can not be shared with other tests	2 x Lavender Done Weekly
Hepatitis C Genotyping PCR	EDTA (x 2) blood. Independent from FBE request. Can not be shared with other tests. FREEZE AT MEDLAB	2 x Lavender Done Weekly
Hepatitis C-RNA (Viral load) Qualitative or Quantitative	Independent from FBE request. Can not be shared with other tests. FREEZE AT MEDLAB Separation of Plasma within 2 hours of collection	2 x Lavender Done Weekly
Herbicides / Pesticides	Lithium Heparin Blood (Plasma)	Green Done Weekly

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Herpes Simplex Virus Serology (HSV)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Herpes Simplex Virus (PCR)	Dry Swab or viral Swab	White or Green top
Herpes Zoster (Varicella Zoster) Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Herpes Zoster (Varicella Zoster) PCR	Dry Swab	White Cap
HHV-6 Serology	Clotted Blood	Contact Laboratory first
Histopathology	Place in 10% buffered formalin. Ideally the volume of fixative should be at least 10 times that of the specimen	Red top jar filled with formalin
Histoplasma antibodies	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST As required
HIV Antibody	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
HIV Antigen	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
HIV RNA/HIV viral load	1 x Gel and 2 x EDTA blood at room temperature (individual tubes)	Gold SST Lavender x 2
HLA B27	5ml EDTA blood x 2 (NOTE: can not be shared with other tests). Transport at room temperature Monday to Thursday collections only. Do not collect before public holidays	Lavender x 2

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
HLA Groupings	5ml EDTA blood x 2 (NOTE: can not be shared with other tests). Transport at room temperature. Monday to Thursday collections only. Do not collect before public holidays	Lavender x 2 Done Weekly
Homocysteine	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Homocystine (Urine)	10ml Early Morning Urine	Yellow Top Jar Done Weekly
HPV DNA	Thin Prep samples. Viral Swabs	Swab - Green Cap
Human Chorionic Gonadotrophin (BHCG)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Hydatid Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Hydroxyproline	Urine (Random) or 24-Hour Urine	Yellow Top Jar Or 24-Hour Urine Bottle. Done Weekly
IgG SUBCLASSES	Clotted Blood (Serum) FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Gold SST
Immunofixation electrophoresis	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Weekly
IMMUNOGLOBULIN (IgG, IgA, IgM, IgE)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Indirect Coombs Test	5ml EDTA Blood	Lavender
Infectious Mononucleosis Screen (IM)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Influenza (Respiratory) virus PCR	Viral Swab or dry Swab	Green Cap or White Cap

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Influenza Virus Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
INR (International Normalised Ratio)	1.8ml blood in Sodium Citrate tube. Collection of full volume is required for accurate result. Small volume collections will not be accepted for analysis (unless collected in pediatric tube).	Light Blue
Insulin	Clotted Blood (Serum) Fasting sample	Gold SST
Insulin Antibodies	Clotted Blood (Fasting sample) FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Gold SST Done Fortnightly
Intrinsic Factor Antibodies	Clotted Blood (Serum) FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Gold SST
Iodine – Urine	Spot Urine NO MEDICARE REBATE	Yellow Top Jar
Ionised Calcium	Clotted Blood (Serum) separate tube	Gold SST
Iron Binding Capacity (total)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Iron Studies (Fe Studies)	Clotted Blood (Serum) Includes Iron, Transferrin and Ferritin	Gold SST
Islet Cell Antibody	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Weekly
Joint aspirate / fluid for culture and crystal detection	Yellow Top sterile container EDTA tube (Cell count)	Yellow Top Jar Lavender
Karyotype	Lithium Heparin Blood	Green
Ketones (Urine)	Yellow Top sterile container	Yellow Top Jar

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Kleihauer Test	EDTA blood (separate tube)	Lavender
Lactate	Fluoride Oxalate Blood. Independent tube required. Can not be shared with other tests. SPUN WITHIN 15mins OF COLLECTION INTO SPINOFF TUBES FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Grey
Lactate Dehydrogenase (LDH)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
LEAD (Pb) Blood	5ml EDTA Blood (individual tube)	Lavender Done Weekly
Lead (Pb) Urine	24-Hour Urine with an acid washed bottle	24-Hour Urine Bottle Done Weekly
Legionella Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Every 2 Days
Leptin	Clotted Blood (Serum) NO MEDICARE REBATE	Gold SST Twice Weekly
Leptospirosis Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST on request
Leucocyte Count (WCC)	5ml EDTA Blood	Lavender
Lipase	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Lipoprotein (a)	Clotted Blood (Serum) NO MEDICARE REBATE	Gold SST Done Weekly
Lithium	Clotted Blood (Serum) . Blood should be collected 8-12 hours after the last known dose. No Gel	Red (No Gel)

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Liver Function Test	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Liver Kidney Microsomes Antibody test (LKM)	Clotted Blood	Gold SST
Lupus Anticoagulant	5 x 1.8ml blood in a sodium Citrate tubes. FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Light Blue x 5 Done Twice Weekly
Lupus Inhibitor	5 x 1.8ml blood in Sodium Citrate tube. Withhold any aspirin intake for 48 hours prior to collection. FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Light Blue x 5 Done Twice Weekly
Luteinising Hormone (LH)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Lyme Disease Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Every 2 Days
Lymphocyte Subsets (T and B Cells)	5ml EDTA blood and ACD tube or 2 x EDTA tubes. Transport at room temperature Monday to Thursday collections only. Do not collect before public holidays	Lavender and Yellow OR 2 x Lavender
Lymphocyte Typing Phenotyping	5ml EDTA blood and ACD tube or 2 x EDTA tubes. Transport at room temperature Monday to Thursday collections only. Do not collect before public holidays	Lavender and Yellow OR 2 x Lavender
Magnesium (Mg)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Malarial Parasites	5ml EDTA Blood	Lavender
Manganese	EDTA blood	Lavender

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Mean Cell Haemoglobin (MCH)	5ml EDTA Blood	Lavender
Mean Cell Haemoglobin Concentration (MCHC)	5ml EDTA Blood	Lavender
Mean Cell Volume (MCV)	5ml EDTA Blood	Lavender
Measles Virus PCR	Nasopharyngeal or Throat Swab	White Cap OR Green Cap (Viral Swab)
Measles Virus Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Measles Virus Direct Antigen Detection	Urine	Yellow Top Jar
Mercury (Blood)	5ml EDTA Blood (separate tube)	Lavender Done Weekly
Mercury (Urine)	24-Hour Urine Collection with an acid washed bottle or spot Urine	24-Hour Urine Bottle. Done Weekly
Methadone (Urine)	Yellow Top Urine container	Yellow Top Jar 24-Hour Urine Container
Microalbumin (Urine)	Urine (Random) OR 24-Hour Urine (No preservative)	Yellow Top Jar 24 hour Urine Container
Microsomal Antibodies	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Mitochondrial Antibodies	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Mumps Virus Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Mycobacteria Testing (Sputum)	Three sputum specimens collected on consecutive days, sent together, labelled with three dates of collection.	Yellow Top Jar Takes up to 6 weeks for final result

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Mycobacteria Testing (Urine)	Three separate early morning samples on consecutive days, labelled with dates of collection	Yellow Top Jar Takes up to 6 weeks for final result
Mycobacteria Testing (Tissue)	Portion of tissue in a sterile container. Do not add formalin	Yellow Top Jar Takes up to 6 weeks for final result
Mycobacteria Testing (Blood Culture)	Blood culture bottles	Blood culture bottles Takes up to 6 weeks
Mycology Culture	Skin scraping, hair (epilated), nail clippings within a Yellow Top Sterile Jar	Yellow Top Jar Takes up to 5 weeks for final result.
MycoPlasma Pneumoniae Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Every 2 Days
Needle stick Injury Serology (HIV,HBV,HCV)	Clotted Blood (HIV, HBV, HCV)	Gold SST
Noradrenaline (Plasma)	Special CATS tube Contact Laboratory	Orange Top – From Laboratory Done Weekly
Norovirus (Included in Enteric Pathogen PCR)	Faeces	Brown Top Jar
Occult Blood (OB)	Stool in Brown top container	Brown Top Jar
Oestradiol (E2)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Opiates	Urine (Random)	Yellow Top Jar

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Organophosphates	Urine. Yellow Top specimen jar. NOTE: Medicare does not cover this test, in most cases Workcover covers it	Yellow Top Jar
Osmolality Urine	Urine (Random)	Yellow Top Jar
Osmolality Serum	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Ostase (Bone Specific Alkaline Phosphatase)	Clotted Blood	Gold SST
Osteocalcin	Clotted Blood FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Gold SST Done Weekly
Oxalate	24-Hour Urine Collection (Acid preservative)	Done Weekly
Pancreatic Islet Cell Antibodies	Clotted Blood	Gold SST Done Weekly
Pap Smear	Slide must be labelled in pencil and sample fixed immediately	Glass Slide
PAPP-A (FTS)	See Triple Test/First Trimester Screen (FTS) Clotted Blood (Serum) FREEZE AT MEDLAB Record all pregnancy related information (number of weeks, weight and height etc). Contact Laboratory if information sheet required	Gold SST
Paracetamol	Clotted Blood (Serum) ALWAYS URGENT	Gold SST
Parathyroid Hormone	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Always fresh blood, cannot be "add-on" test

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Parietal Cell Antibodies	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Parvovirus Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Every 2 days
Paternity Testing	Contact the Laboratory	N/A
Pertussis Serology	Clotted Blood	Done Every 2 days
Phenobarbitone	Clotted Blood (Serum) Collection should be immediately prior to next dose	Red (No Gel)
Phenol (Urine)	Complete Urine post shift and refrigerate	Yellow Top Jar
Phenytoin (Dilantin)	Clotted Blood (Serum) Collection should be immediately prior to next dose	Red (No Gel)
Phosphate (Serum)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Phosphate (Urine)	24 hr Urine (Acid preservative)	24-Hour Urine Bottle Done Weekly
Plasminogen Assay	2 x 1.8ml Citrated Blood FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Light Blue x 2
Platelet Antibodies	5ml EDTA Blood. 2 x 5ml if platelet count < 50. Dispatch at room temperature. Blood must be less than 24-Hours old. Do not collect Friday, weekend or before a public holiday	Lavender
Platelet Count (Plt)	5ml EDTA Blood plus 1.8ml Citrate blood	Light Blue + Lavender

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Platelet Function	12 x 1.8ml Citrated Blood Contact Laboratory first Appointment Required	Light Blue x 12
Pneumococcal antigen	Spot Urine	Yellow Top Jar Done Weekly
Porphyrins (Plasma) (RCP)	5ml EDTA Blood or Lithium Heparin whole blood. NOTE: Sample must be transported in dark i.e. wrap in foil.	Lavender OR Green Done Weekly
Porphyrins (Faeces)	Minimum of 10g sample. Sample to be frozen on collection and transported in dark, i.e. wrapped in foil or brown paper bag	Brown Top Jar Done Weekly
Porphyrins (Urine)	Minimum of 10ml early morning specimen, frozen upon collection. NOTE: keep sample in dark, i.e. wrap in foil or place in brown paper bag	Yellow Top Jar Done Weekly
Potassium (Blood)	Clotted Blood (Serum) Separation of clot from Serum must be within 4 hours. Do not store or transport below 10 degree Celsius before separation	Gold SST
Potassium (Urine)	24-Hour Urine Collection (No preservative)	24-Hour Urine Bottle Done Weekly
Pregnancy Test (BHCG) (Blood)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Pregnancy Test (Urine)	20ml Random Urine sample (first morning is preferred) Refrigerate	Yellow Top Jar
Progesterone (PROG)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Prolactin (PROL)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Protein C / Protein S	2 x Sodium Citrate tubes (separate from any other tests). Forward to Laboratory as soon as possible, otherwise spin sample down, separate. OR Contact Laboratory	Light Blue Done Twice Weekly
Protein Electrophoresis (PEPG) (Blood)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Weekly
Protein Electrophoresis (PEPG) (Urine)	Random Urine. Refrigerate	Yellow Top Jar
Protein Total (Blood)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Protein Total (Urine)	24-Hour Urine sample, (No preservative) or Spot Urine	24-Hour Urine Bottle or Yellow Top Jar
Prothrombin Gene Mutation Test	EDTA blood (separate tube) Keep at room temperature	Lavender Done Weekly
Prothrombin Time (PT)	See INR	Light Blue
Psittacosis Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Weekly
Pyruvate	Specially prepared tubes from RNSH Contact Laboratory	Whole Blood collected into tube with 5% perchloric acid
Q Fever Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST. Done Every 2 Days
RAST or sslgE	Clotted Blood (Serum) Allergen Panels - See page 68	Gold SST

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Red Cell Folate	EDTA and Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST and Lavender
Red Cell Morphology	Spot Urine (Fresh) OR 24-Hour Urine Collection	Yellow Top Jar 24-Hour Urine Bottle with Acid
Renin	2 x 5ml EDTA. Keep the sample cool mix tube and transport to Laboratory	Lavender Done Weekly
Renin/Aldosterone Ratio	1x EDTA and 1x Gel tube Keep the sample cool, mix tube and transport to Laboratory	Gold SST Lavender Done Weekly
Respiratory Syncytial Virus Serology (RSV)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Every 2nd day
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) PCR	Throat or Nasopharyngeal Swab	White Cap Dry Swab
Respiratory Viral Antigens / PCR	Throat or Nasopharyngeal Swab	White Cap Dry Swab
Reticulocyte Count	5ml EDTA Blood	Lavender
Rheumatoid Factor	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Rickettsia Serology	Clotted Blood	Gold SST Done Every 2nd day
Ross River Virus Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Twice a Week
Rotavirus Direct Antigen Detection PCR	Faeces	Brown Top Jar
RPR Syphilis Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Rubella Virus Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Salicylate	Clotted Blood or Heparin tube blood	Gold SST or Green Cap tubes
Salmonella culture Enteric PCR	Faeces	Brown Top Jar
Salmonella Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Weekly
Schistosoma Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Every Thursday
Schistosoma Faeces	Faeces	Brown Top Jar
Schistosoma Urine	First morning Urine collection	Yellow Top Jar
Selenium	2 x 5ml EDTA Blood (separate tube from other tests)	Lavender x 2 Done Weekly
Semen Analysis	Sample should be collected after a period of at least 2 days abstinence. Complete ejaculate should be collected and delivered to the Laboratory within 2 hours of collection. Maintain between 10-30 degrees Celsius. Refer to page 64 for detailed instructions	Yellow Top Jar
Semen Analysis (Post Vasectomy)	Refer to above information.	Yellow Top Jar
Serotonin	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Weekly

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Serotonin and Metabolite (5hydroxyIndole Acetic Acid – 5HIAA)	24-Hour Urine Collection. Acid preservative. Refer to page 62 for further information	Done Weekly
Sex Hormone Binding Globulin (SHBG)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Smooth Muscle Antibodies	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Sodium (Na)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Sodium (Na) Urine	24-Hour Urine collection (No preservative) OR Spot Urine	Urine Bottle or Yellow Top Jar Done Weekly
Specific Gravity (Urine)	Spot Urine	Yellow Top Jar
Sperm Antibodies (Serum)	Clotted Blood Freeze at Medlab	Gold SST Done Weekly
Sperm Antibodies	0.5ml seminal Plasma from ejaculate. Contact Laboratory first FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Yellow Top Jar Done Twice Weekly
Sputum Microscopy Culture / Sensitivity	Purulent deep cough sputum	Yellow Top Jar
SSA antibodies	Clotted Blood	Gold SST
Strongyloides Serology	10ml Clotted Blood	Gold SST Done Twice Weekly
Strongyloides Detection	Faeces	Brown Top Jar

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Swine Flu PCR	Viral Swab or Dry Swab	Green Cap or White Cap Swabs
Synovial Fluid Microscopy / Culture / Sensitivity	Synovial fluid collected in a sterile Yellow Top container plus EDTA tube of similar content if a cell count is required	Yellow Top Jar Lavender
Syphilis Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Tegretol/Carbamazepine	Clotted Blood (Serum) See Carbamazepine	Gold SST
Tetanus Antibodies	Clotted Blood (Serum) NO MEDICARE REBATE	Gold SST Done Monthly
T-Cell Analysis (Lymphocyte Subsets)	5ml EDTA and ACD tube, or 2 x EDTA tubes. Transport at room temperature. Monday to Thursday collections only. Do not collect before public holidays.	Yellow + Lavender OR 2 x Lavender Done Weekly
Testosterone (Total)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Thalassaemia Screen (HBEFG)	5ml EDTA preferably separate from FBE	Lavender
Testosterone (Total)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Theophylline	Clotted Blood (Serum) Collect immediately prior to next dose.	Gold SST

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Thin Prep (Pap Smear)	<p>THINPREP VIAL Collect the conventional slide in the usual way. Then rinse the smear-taking implement vigorously in the ThinPrep vial solution. If both a spatula and a brush are used, rinse both in the same vial. Discard the implement – do not leave in the vial HPV DNA, Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea can be performed on the material collected in the Thin Prep vial. NOTE: NO MEDICARE REBATE is available for the Thin Prep test.</p>	Thin Prep Vial
Thiocyanate	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Thrombophilia Screen (Protein C+S,APCR, Lupus,Antithrombin III)	10 x citrate Plasma, 1x EDTA FREEZE	Light Blue x 10 Lavender x 1
Thyroglobulin	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Thyroid Antibodies (Microsomal and Thyroglobulin antibodies)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Thyroid Function Test (TFT)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (TSH)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Toluene (Blood)	10ml Lithium Heparin Blood	Green
Toxocara Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Weekly

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
ToxoPlasma Gondii Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
TPPA (Treponema Pallidum Particle Agglutination Antibody test)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Trace Metals	4 x EDTA blood	4 x Lavender
Transferrin (TRF)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Triglyceride (TRIG)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Triple Test – First Trimester (Downs Syndrome Screen) includes Free BhCG, PAPP-A, AFP and Ue3	Clotted Blood (Serum) Collect specimen between 10 weeks and 13 completed weeks (i.e 13 weeks, 6 days) gestation. Note must provide relevant pregnancy and other details (LMP, ultrasound data etc) on request form. FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Gold SST
Triple Test – Second Trimester (Downs Syndrome Screen) includes Free BhCG, PAPP-A, AFP and Ue3	Clotted Blood (Serum) Collect specimen between 14 weeks and 17 completed weeks (i.e. 17 weeks, 6 days) gestation, although specimen can be collected up to 20 weeks. Note must provide relevant pregnancy and other details (LMP, ultrasound data etc) on request form. FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Gold SST
Troponin	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Tryptase	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Twice Weekly

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Typhoid Serology (Widal Test)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Urate (Urine)	24 hr Urine, refer to page 59 for further information. No preservative	24-Hour Urine Bottle
Urea (U)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Uric Acid (Urate)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Urine Midstream (MSU) Microscopy Culture and Sensitivity	Mid stream Urine sample collected in sterile jar. Keep under constant refrigeration	Yellow Top Jar
Urine Cytology	Three morning specimens on separate days are preferred. The specimens should be in sterile containers, and should be refrigerated, and sent to the Laboratory each day	Yellow Top Jar
Urine Drug Screen	Random Urine	Yellow Top Jar
Urine Myoglobin	Spot Urine NO MEDICARE REBATE	Yellow Top Jar
Valproate (Epilim)	Clotted Blood (Serum). Collect immediately prior to next dose (trough level)	Gold SST
Varicella Zoster Virus Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Varicella Zoster Virus (PCR sample preferred)	Swab in viral transport media	Green Top Swab
Viral Culture (PCR sample preferred if available)	Swab in viral transport media	Green Top Swab
Viral Studies (Includes EBV, TOX, CMV)	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Viscosity (Plasma)	10ml EDTA Blood. Spin sample immediately upon collection and separate Plasma immediately	Lavender
Viscosity (Whole Blood)	10ml EDTA whole blood	Lavender
Vitamin A	Clotted Blood (Serum) or Lithium Heparin (Plasma). Separate Plasma or Serum and freeze. NOTE: protect the sample from the light. (separate tube from other tests) FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Gold SST or Green Done Weekly
Vitamin B1 (Thiamine)	10ml Lithium Heparin Blood or EDTA (Plasma), collect before any change to diet. Must be wrapped in foil. Freeze whole blood at Medlab. (separate tube from other tests)	Lavender x 2 Done Weekly
Vitamin B2	EDTA sample. Must be wrapped in foil. Sample can not be shared with other tests. Freeze whole blood at Medlab	Lavender x 2 Done Weekly
Vitamin B3	24-Hour Urine specimen (acid preservative)	24-Hour Urine Bottle Done Weekly
Vitamin B6	EDTA sample. Must be wrapped in foil. Sample can not be shared with other tests. Freeze whole blood at Medlab	2 x Lavender Done Weekly
Vitamin B12	Clotted Blood	Gold SST
Vitamin C	10ml Clotted Blood (Serum) or Lithium Heparin (Plasma). Separate Serum or Plasma and freeze. Protect the sample from Light FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Gold SST or Green Done Weekly

Test Name	Collection Requirements	Specimen / Special Comments
Vitamin D	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Vitamin E	Clotted Blood (Serum) OR Lithium Heparin (Plasma). Separate Serum or Plasma and freeze. Protect from light. FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Gold SST or Green Done Weekly
Vitamin K	Lithium Heparin tube (Plasma). Protect from light. Separate and FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Green top tube Done Weekly
VMA	24-Hour Urine sample (acid preservative)	24-Hour Urine Bottle Done Weekly
Von Willebrand Factor	5 x 1.8ml blood in Sodium citrate tube. Sample should arrive at Laboratory within 4 hours of collection. Withhold all aspirin etc. FREEZE AT MEDLAB	Light Blue x 5 Done Fortnightly
Widal Test (Salmonella)	10ml Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST Done Every 2 Days
Wound Swab	Stuarts transport Swab at room temperature. NOTE: Pus is preferred	Blue Cap or Charcoal Swab
Zika virus Serology	Clotted Blood (Serum)	Gold SST
Zika virus PCR	Contact Laboratory	
Zinc (Zn)	Trace element	Navy Blue

Patient Information Sheet For Glucose Tolerance Test (GTT)

PURPOSE OF TEST: Used in the diagnosis of Diabetes Mellitus

PREPARATION FOR THE TEST:

1. You should have an unrestricted diet containing at least 150g of carbohydrates per day over the three (3) days preceding the test.
2. You should fast (no food or energy supplying substance) for at least eight hours prior to the test (but no longer than 16 hours). Water is permitted during this period and during the test procedure.

TEST PROCEDURE:

1. All tests are preferably done in the morning because of variations in sugar levels during the course of the day.
2. On arrival, a fasting blood is collected.
3. Following this, you will be given a glucose (sugar) drink. You should drink all the liquid over a period of no more than five (5) minutes.
4. Blood sample is collected after 60 minutes (1 hour), and 120 minutes (2 hours) from the start of you drinking the glucose drink.

NOTE:

1. You should not have the test if you are ill or if you are known to have diabetes mellitus.
2. Smoking is not permitted during the fasting period and throughout the duration of the collection procedure.
3. Any form of exercise (walking) during the test period should be avoided.

For further information speak directly with the attending Medlab pathology collector or by contacting the main Medlab Laboratory Customer Service Department on 1300 633 522.

Patient Information Sheet

Glucose challenge test (or short GTT)

1. You are not required to fast before the collection procedure.
2. On arrival you will be given a glucose (sugar) solution to drink containing 50g glucose.
3. After 60 minutes (1 hour) from the start of drinking the glucose drink provided, a blood sample is collected.

For further inquiries or additional information regarding this testing procedure you can either speak directly with the attending Medlab pathology collector or by contacting the main Medlab Laboratory Customer Service Department on 1300 633 522.

Patient Instructions For The Collection Of Mid Stream Urine From Male Patients

GENERAL INFORMATION: If your doctor suspects you have a bladder infection, a carefully collected and tested Urine sample is an important part of the assessment.

METHOD OF COLLECTION

1. You will be given a supply of tissues and a sterile plastic container with a Yellow Top.
2. Wash your hands before you collect the sample.
3. Wet a tissue and wash the tip of your penis. Uncircumcised patients should retract the foreskin.
4. Dry the tip of your penis with a tissue.
5. Pass the first part of Urine into the toilet without stopping. The middle portion is passed into the sterile Yellow Top container. The container should be at least $\frac{1}{4}$ full.
6. Void the final part of Urine into the toilet.

NOTE:

- A. When you handle the Yellow Top container, it is important that you don't touch the inside of the container as this may introduce unwanted germs which will complicate testing.
- B. If the specimen is to be collected at home, store the specimen in the refrigerator (not freezer) and deliver to the nearest Medlab collection centre or to your doctors surgery for transportation to the Laboratory.

Patient Instructions For The Collection Of Mid Stream Urine From Female Patients

GENERAL INFORMATION

If your doctor suspects you have a bladder infection, a carefully collected and tested Urine sample is an important part of the assessment.

METHOD OF COLLECTION

1. You will be given a supply of tissues and a sterile plastic container with a Yellow Top.
2. Wash your hands before you collect the sample.
3. Undress in a suitable room and clean the genital area using cotton balls or tissue paper and warm water, wiping from the front to the back.
4. Pass Urine, discarding the first portion into the toilet.
5. Pass the middle portion into the sterile Yellow Top container provided. The container should be at least $\frac{1}{4}$ full.
6. Pass the final part of the Urine into the toilet.

NOTE:

- A. When you handle the Yellow Top container, it is important that you don't touch the inside of the container as this may introduce unwanted germs which will complicate testing.
- B. If menstruating, insert a tampon before Urine collection.
- C. If the specimen is to be collected at home, store the specimen in the refrigerator (not freezer) and deliver to the nearest Medlab Collection Centre, or to your Doctor's Surgery for transportation.

Patient Instructions For The Collection Of 24-Hour Urine

1. Empty bladder into toilet after 6:00am on the morning of the commencement of the test (this specimen is not to be collected into the 24-Hour Urine container)
2. Record on the 24-Hour Urine container the time and date you passed the Urine.
3. Collect all Urine over the next 24-Hours directly into the 24-Hour Urine container provided.
4. The 24-Hour Urine container should at all times be stored in the refrigerator or an esky with an ice-brick. Promptly return the 24-Hour Urine container back to your doctor's surgery for arrangement to be delivered to the main Medlab Laboratory for analysis.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further inquiries or additional information regarding this testing procedure you can either speak directly with the attending Medlab pathology collector or by contacting the main Medlab Laboratory Customer Service Department on 1300 633 522.

Patient Instructions For The Collection Of Stool Specimens For Occult Blood

1. You are given three white plastic containers with Brown Lids.
2. Collect one stool sample each day over three days (use one container for each collection).
3. For 48 hours before collection avoid:
 - a). Red meat and certain raw fruits and vegetables especially melon, carrots and radish.
 - b). Avoid intake of iron supplements and vitamins.
 - c). Avoid alcohol and drugs such as Aspirin, Corticosteroids, NSAIDS (Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs) should not be taken;
 - d). Collect a small amount in the container and close lid firmly;
 - e). Label the container with your name, date of birth and the date of collection. Deliver to the nearest Medlab collection centre or to your doctors surgery for transport arrangements.

For Further Inquiries or additional information regarding this testing procedure you can either speak directly with the attending Medlab pathology collector or by contacting the main Medlab Laboratory Customer Service Department on 1300 633 522.

Patient Instructions For The Collection And Delivery Of Semen Sample

SAMPLE COLLECTION: The semen should be collected after a minimum of 48 hours but no longer than seven days of abstinence. The sample should be obtained by masturbation and ejaculated into a wide mouth clean (Yellow Top Jar) container. Label the jar with the patients name, date of birth, referring doctors name and time of collection.

For fertility assessment the whole sample (whole ejaculate) should be collected into the jar. If whole sample is not collected, mention it to your doctor or pathology collector.

NOTE: Other methods of collection for example – interrupted intercourse or condom should be avoided.

The specimen should be kept at room temperature (NOT REFRIGERATED) and must be delivered to the nearest Medlab Pathology Laboratory within one hour after collection, Monday to Friday 8:30am – 5:00pm or Saturdays 9:00am – 4:00pm.

TRANSPORTATION: The sample should be protected from extremes of temperatures (less than 20 degree Celsius and more than 40 degree Celsius. Place the specimen in a specimen bag and carry on the inside of a pocket or a handbag. The specimen must be submitted with a signed request form (given by the referring doctor).

NOTE: If a second specimen is required for testing, it must be submitted with a separate request form signed by the referring doctor. The interval between the two collections should not be before seven days and not later than three weeks.

If any further inquiries in relation to this collection procedure or the transportation of the sample, contact the main Medlab Laboratory Customer Service Department on 1300 633 522 during working hours and ask to speak to one of the in-house collectors.

Patient Instructions For The Collection Of Sputum For Cytology

1. Sterile container (Yellow Top Jar) is to be used. In most cases your doctor will provide you with such containers or otherwise contact the Laboratory on the telephone number below to make arrangements.
2. Ideally the deep phlegm specimen should be collected early in the morning. A sputum specimen from any time of the day can be used only if this is not possible. Patients should clean their teeth and thoroughly rinse their mouth with water. Do not use mouthwash (eg Listerine)
3. Sputum should be a deep cough specimen and contain no saliva. The specimen is to be delivered to the Laboratory as soon as possible after collection, if delivery is delayed specimen is to be refrigerated.
4. Label the containers with your name, date of birth and the date of collection. Deliver to the nearest Medlab collection centre or to your doctors surgery for transport arrangements.

MULTIPLE SPECIMENS:

If the request is “x3”, specimens must be collected on three consecutive (3) days.

For further inquiries or additional information regarding this testing procedure you can either speak directly with the attending Medlab pathology collector or by contacting the main Medlab Laboratory Customer Service Department on 1300 633 522.

Patient Instructions For The Collection Of Urine For Cytology

1. When you get up in the morning, empty bladder into the toilet.
2. Over the next two hours drink as much water as possible, passing Urine into the toilet as necessary.
3. At the end of the 2-hour period completely empty your bladder into the toilet.
4. Thirty (30) minutes later after completely emptying your bladder collect a Urine specimen into a Yellow Topped Jar; making sure the jar is at least half full.
5. Collect a sample on three (3) separate mornings following the exact instructions referred to above. It is preferred that each specimen be dropped off at the surgery or the nearest Medlab collection center each day as soon possible after collection.

NOTE: Ensure staff has given you 3 yellow-topped containers and three request forms which need to accompany the specimen. For further inquiries or additional information regarding this testing procedure you can either speak directly with the attending Medlab pathology collector or by contacting the main Medlab Laboratory Customer Service Department on 1 300 633 522.

Tumor Markers

Type Of Cancer	Tumor Markers
Prostate	PSA; FREE PSA
Ovaries	CA125
Testicles	HCG, LDH, AFP
Breast	CA15.3
Colorectal	CEA; CA19.9
Pancreatic	CA 19.9
Liver	AFP
Multiple Myleloma	Serum/Urine EPG+IFE

RAST or sslgE allergen panels

Test name	Collection requirements	Specimen
<p>RAST A Standard allergen panel adult ≥ 18 years old (house dust mite, grass/weed mix, mould mix)</p> <p>RAST C Standard allergen panel child < 18 years old (house dust mite, grass/weed mix, food staple mix)</p> <p>RAST E Extended pollen panel (grass mix, tree pollen mix, weed mix, animal mix)</p> <p>RAST F Extended food panel *</p> <p>(peanut, cow milk, soy, cod/herring/mackerel/plaice, shrimp)</p> <p>RAST AF Extended food and pollen panel (food staple mix, house dust mite, grass mix, animal mix)</p> <p>RAST V Insect venom panel (honey bee, common wasp, paper wasp)</p> <p>RAST N Peanut and treenut panel *</p> <p>(peanut, almond, cashew, hazelnut, walnut, macadamia)</p> <p>RAST P Penicillin panel (penicillin G, penicillin V, amoxicillin)</p> <p>RAST PEA Peanut Ara h profile *</p> <p>(peanut, Ara h 1,2,3 and 8)</p> <p>RAST S Seafood panel (cod/herring/mackerel/plaice, tuna, salmon, shrimp)</p>	<p>All panels performed on Clotted Blood (Serum)</p> <p>* indicates these panels are always privately billed. For other panels, only one panel can be bulked billed, and any additional panels requested will be privately billed</p>	<p>Gold SST (minimum 2ml)</p>

Polymerase Chain Reaction

Clinical	Pathogen
STI	Chlamydia trachomatis* and Neisseria gonorrhoeae
STI	Mycoplasma genitalium** and Ureaplasma urealyticum
STI	Trichomonas vaginalis**
STI	Treponema pallidum (syphilis)
STI/Skin or affected body site	Human Herpes Virus I and II
Skin	Varicella zoster virus
STI	Human papilloma virus (HPV)
Respiratory	Bordetella pertussis
Respiratory	Influenza A (incl.swine flu), Influenza B and Resp.syncytial virus (RSV)
Respiratory	Mycoplasma pneumoniae
Respiratory	Chlamydia pneumoniae
Gastroenteritis	Salmonella spp, Shigella spp, Yersinia spp, Campylobacter jejuni, Clostridium difficile toxin, Aeromonas, Giardia lamblia, Blastocystis hominis, Dientamoeba fragilis, Entamoeba histolytica, Cryptosporidium spp, Rotavirus, Human Adenovirus and Norovirus
Skin Rash URTI/Lymphadenopathy	Epstein Barr virus (EBV)
Skin Rash	Parvovirus
Skin Rash	Measles Virus
Conjunctivitis*	Adenovirus

(PCR) Tests

	Specimen Site	Specimen Type	Notes
	First void Urine, vaginal, cervical or urethral Swab. Anal, throat or eye Swab may be tested but not validated for CT/NG PCR	Aptima Urine Specimen Transport Tube (Yellow Cap) FVU, Dry Swab (White Cap) Aptima Specimen Transport Tube (For Swabs) Green Cap	C.trachomatis and N.gonorrhoeae* multiplex
	First void Urine, vaginal, cervical or urethral Swab	Dry Swab (White Cap)	M.genitalium, T.vaginalis and U.urealyticum Multiplex**
	Vaginal or cervical Swab	Dry Swab (White Cap)	
	Genital lesion	Dry Swab (White Cap)	
	Affected body site	Dry Swab (White Cap)	Multiplex with Varicella zoster
	Affected body site	Dry Swab (White Cap)	Multiplex HSV and VZV PCR. Test performed on a single Swab
	Genital lesion. Thin Prep	Dry Swab (White Cap) Thin Prep	Male Patients for HPV: Dry Swab. Female Patients for HPV Screen: Thin Prep. (Medicare Restrictions Apply)
	Throat or nasopharyngeal Swabs	Dry Swab (White Cap) or Orange cap (Nasopharyngeal Swab)	Sputum samples are not acceptable.
	Throat or nasopharyngeal Swabs	Dry Swab (White Cap)	Inf.A (Swine Flu), Inf.B and RSV
	Nasopharyngeal aspirate Throat Swab	Dry Swab (White Cap) or Orange cap (Nasopharyngeal Swab)	Sputum sample acceptable
	Throat Swab Nasopharyngeal Swab	Dry Swab (White Cap) Orange Cap (Nasopharyngeal)	Sputum sample acceptable
		Faeces	
	Throat Swab	Dry Swab (White Cap)	Epstein Barr Virus
	Throat Swab	Dry (White Cap) or Viral (Green Cap)	Parvovirus PCR
	Throat Swab	Dry (White Cap) or Viral (Green Cap)	Measles virus PCR
	Eye Swab	Dry Swab (White Cap)	*Eye infection if Herpes or Zoster suspected, requires separate dry swab HSV PCR

Notes

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