

**KAISER MEDICAL CARE PROGRAM
ORANGE COUNTY AREA
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

TITLE:	HEMATOLOGY P&P	INDEX NO:	04-095-01
SECTION:	PROCEDURES	ORIGIN DATE:	8/95
SUBJECT:	COLD AGGLUTININ TREATMENT	REVIEW DATE	4/14
		REVISION DATE	5/14, 1/17

COLD AGGLUTININ TREATMENT

PRINCIPLE The presence cold agglutinin can adversely affect the results of the CBC, i.e. inaccurate results. The parameters affected are RBC, HCT, MCV, MCH and MCHC. This is due to the agglutination of the RBC's in the sample as it cools to room temperature.

MATERIALS & REAGENTS	37 ° C Drybath and timer	Micro-hematocrit centrifuge
	Heparinized 75mm Hematocrit tubes	Critoseal
	Cellpack	Hematology Analyzer

SAFETY All specimens should be handled as though capable of transmitting infectious diseases. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment when running patient samples or performing scheduled maintenance. Refer to: Policy and Procedures Safety Manual Infection Control and Procedures 11-085-01.

PROCEDURE

Step	Action
1.	Incubate the CBC sample by putting it in a 37 ° C Drybath for at least 30 minutes.
2.	Mix well and rerun the specimen <i>immediately</i> after pre-warming.
3.	If MCHC is corrected, then the other indices have been corrected for cold agglutinin. Proceed to result the corrected values.
4.	In cases of very strong cold agglutinins where the MCHC does not correct after warming the sample for more than 1 hour, perform a SPUN HCT.
5.	If a manual diff is needed, prewarm several slides in the drybath for 15-30 minutes before making the smear.
6.	Report only the WBC, HGB, HCT and PLT count. Enter NOT MEASURED for RBC, MCV, MCH, MCHC and RDW. Then ADD the comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Unable to report RBC and RBC Indices due to strong cold agglutinins.” on ALL parameters reported as NOT MEASURED. • “Hematocrit is a SPUN HCT.” for HCT.
