

Beaumont

Origination 5/31/2022
Last Approved 5/31/2022
Effective 5/31/2022
Last Revised 5/31/2022
Next Review 5/30/2024

Document Contact Michelle Fischer:
Mgr, Lab Support Svcs
Area Laboratory-Processing
Applicability Dearborn,
Farmington Hills,
Grosse Pointe,
Royal Oak, Troy

Laboratory Outreach Processing Un-Centrifuged Serum Separator Tubes (SST) and Plasma Separator Tubes (PST)

Document Type: Procedure

I. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE:

This document provides instruction for proper handling and documentation of unspun Serum Separator Tubes (SST) and Mint Green Plasma Separator Tubes (PST) received by the Laboratory Outreach Processing areas.

II. CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

It is essential that gold-top SST tubes are centrifuged as soon as the blood has clotted (clotting takes 30-60 minutes from time of collection). The mint green PST tubes are to be centrifuged immediately and do not have to wait for clotting. Centrifugation allows the gel to separate red cells, white cells and platelets from the serum or plasma. If cells remain in contact with the serum, cell contents (e.g., potassium, LD, AST) leak into the serum, or because the cells are metabolically active they utilize glucose. Consequently, the following changes start to occur within 2-4 hours from blood collection:

- A. Potassium increases
- B. Glucose decreases
- C. Other tests are affected after longer periods (e.g. LD, CO2, Phosphate, TSH)

III. SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND HANDLING:

A. Unspun Specimens <4 Hours SST or <2 Hours PST:

1. If the above collection time requirement is met and identified on the requisition or specimen tube, the specimen will be spun appropriately, ordered and delivered to testing department.

B. Unspun Specimens >4 Hours SST or >2 Hours PST:

1. When Unspun SST or PST specimens arrive to the laboratory outside of the appropriate collection time frame:
 - a. Place an "Unspun" sticker on the requisition. This provides a flag to the processors that the specimen arrived at the laboratory unspun.
 - b. Physically mark the specimen to identify it as Unspun upon receipt:
 - i. Write the letter "S" on the specimen tube (**not the cap or label**) or highlight the label based on site work flow. Contact site leadership if unsure of sites specific work flow.
 - c. Once the order is complete and specimen ID is generated, scan the specimen ID in Specimen Update and add the "received unspun flag".

C. Unspun SST or PST with Unknown Collection Time:

1. When Unspun specimens arrive to the laboratory with no collection time listed on the requisition or the SST/PST tubes:
 - a. Place an "Unspun" sticker on the requisition. This provides a flag to the processors that the specimen arrived into the laboratory unspun.
 - b. Physically mark the specimen to identify it as "Unspun"
 - i. Write the letter "S" on the specimen tube (not the cap or label), or highlight the label based on site work flow. Contact site leadership if unsure of sites specific work flow.
 - c. Once the order is complete and specimen ID is generated, scan the specimen ID in Specimen Update and add the "received unspun flag".
 - d. Create a Follow-Up task to verify specimen collection time.

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
CLIA Medical Directors	Ann Marie Blenc: System Med Dir, Hematopath	5/31/2022

CLIA Medical Directors	Jeremy Powers: Chief, Pathology	5/27/2022
CLIA Medical Directors	Ryan Johnson: OUWB Clinical Faculty	5/25/2022
CLIA Medical Directors	Vaishali Pansare: Chief, Pathology	5/23/2022
CLIA Medical Directors	John Pui: Chief, Pathology	5/23/2022
Policy and Forms Steering Committee Approval (if needed)	Michelle Fischer: Mgr, Lab Support Svcs	5/23/2022
Policy and Forms Steering Committee Approval (if needed)	Ilene Hirsch: Project Mgr Policy	5/23/2022
Lab Operations Directors	Joan Wehby: Dir, Lab Operations C	5/23/2022
Lab Operations Directors	Elzbieta Wysteppek: Dir, Lab Operations B	5/18/2022
Lab Operations Directors	Kimberly Geck: Dir, Lab Operations B	5/18/2022
Lab Processing Best Practice Committee	Michelle Fischer: Mgr, Lab Support Svcs	5/18/2022
	Michelle Fischer: Mgr, Lab Support Svcs	5/18/2022

Applicability

Dearborn, Farmington Hills, Grosse Pointe, Royal Oak, Troy