

Specimen Acceptability Volume Requirements



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Guidelines for Specimen Acceptability Volume Requirements

Prepared by: S.DeMarinis, MT (ASCP)
C.Guertin, CLS

Adopted on 10/14/22 by Laboratory Director Dr. J.Mills Barbeau *JMB MD*

Annual Review:

Reviewed by Medical Director	Date	Reviewed by Medical Director	Date
<i>JMB MD</i>	<i>10/14/22</i>		

Revisions:

✓ Bristol – MARI 1180 Hope Street Bristol, RI	East Greenwich CC 1454 S. County Trail East Greenwich, RI	
Miriam Hospital 164 Summit Avenue Providence, RI	Newport Hospital 11 Friendship Street Newport, RI	Rhode Island Hospital 593 Eddy Street Providence, RI

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Clinical Significance: This guideline covers the parameters for the volume requirement of an acceptable specimen for coagulation testing. Anticoagulant concentration and volume and specimen (blood) volume, are variables that may affect coagulation testing results.

Principle: This procedure provides the performance guidelines for assessing the acceptable fill volume for 3.2 % Sodium Citrate collection tubes that may be used in the coagulation laboratory.

Acceptable Specimen:

A specimen collected in 3.2% Sodium Citrate is acceptable for coagulation testing if it meets the requirements for volume, hematocrit is less than 56%, is not more than 4 hours old* and is not clotted.

*Only specimens for PT and Ddimer testing are stable for up to 24 hours at Room Temperature

Acceptable Volume Requirements: 3.2% Sodium Citrate blood vacutainer tubes

- **4.5 ml and 2.7 ml vacutainer tubes:** Acceptable specimen is filled within the +/- 10% range of the stated vacuum fill volume of the blue top tube as shown
- **1.8 ml vacutainer tubes:** exact fill to indicator line is acceptable

4.5 ml +/- 10 % and 2.7ml +/- 10%



1.8 ml filled to indicator line



- **Underfilled: QNS (Quantity Not Sufficient)**
Specimen does not meet minimum fill requirement
- **Overfilled:** Specimen is filled beyond the maximum fill line

References:

Becton Dickinson: Package Insert Sodium Citrate Vacutainer Fill guidelines, 2002
Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI). Collection, Transport, and Processing of Blood Specimens for Testing Plasma-Based Coagulation Assays and Molecular Hemostasis assays— 5th Edition; Approved Guideline. NCCLS document H21-A5, 2008