

INSIST on Good Diagnostic Specimen Preparation for Quality Results

INVERT - Gently, DO NOT SHAKE TUBES.

NOTE - Any special handling requirements (i.e., freezing)

STAND - Serum Separator Tube (SST) to clot 30 minutes, no longer than 60 minutes.

INSPECT - Tubes before centrifugation to ensure a clot has formed.

SPIN - Centrifuge according to manufacturers' recommendation to obtain separation.

TRANSPORT - Refrigerate/freeze samples as



Serum Separator Tube (Tiger Top)

1. Allow tube to fill to capacity.
2. Gently invert tube 5 times to mix clot activator with blood.
3. Stand tube upright to clot for 30 minutes, no longer than 60 minutes.
4. Observe dense clot and then centrifuge according to manufacturers' recommendation.
5. Refrigerate (36°- 46°F).

Following Shipping Procedures:



Good Separation

Gel is firmly wedged against the sides of the tube to form a complete barrier between the red cells and the serum.



Unspun SST

The gel separator is at the bottom of the tube. Unspun clotted blood remains on the top of the gel. Centrifuge and observe the quality of the separation. Determine if any other specimen requirements exist before sending to the laboratory.



Incomplete Separation

Serum is not completely separated from the red cells after centrifugation. Presence of red cells in the serum will adversely affect results and lead to cancellation of tests. Recentrifuge the sample immediately to achieve complete separation, or recollect at the next dialysis session.



Fibrin in Serum

This condition results from not allowing the specimen to clot before centrifugation. Presence of trapped red cells in the fibrin will adversely affect the test results.* Recentrifuge the sample immediately to achieve complete separation, or recollect at the next dialysis session.



Hemolysis

This condition occurs when the specimen is exposed to heat, unable to clot, or remains unspun for more than 1 hour. Presence of hemoglobin in the serum will adversely affect test results and lead to cancellation of tests. Recollecting at the next dialysis session is recommended.

Order of Draw for Multiple Tube Collections

Cap Color	Collection Tube
	Gel Separator Tube
	Serum (plastic tube)
	Serum (glass tube)
	Citrate
	Gel Separator Tube with Heparin
	EDTA

How to Prepare a Quality Serum Sample



Invert

- Gently invert tube 5 times to mix clot activator with blood.

Clot

- Stand tube upright in test tube rack to clot for 30 minutes, no longer than 60 minutes.
- Observe dense clot.



Centrifuge

- Balance all tubes prior to centrifugation and spin according to manufacturers' recommendation to obtain complete separation.
- Barrier will form, separating specimen from clot.
- Package and ship to Spectra in accordance with shipping protocol.