

SPECIMEN STABILITY TIME SENSITIVE TESTS CHART

Test Name	Specimen Stability from Collection Time	Special Instructions
Ammonia	20 minutes on ice	Must be collected on ice and performed within 20 minutes of collection.
Beta-Hydroxy	4 hr Room Temp or Refrig	
BNP	whole blood 7 hrs Room Temp or Refrig plasma 24 hrs - Room Temp or Refrig	
B12 and Folate	8 hrs- Room Temp or Refrig	After 8 hrs protect from light and refrigerate
C-Diff	48 hr Refrigerated	
CBC	24 hr- Room Temp	Clotted samples or those containing clots, fibrin strands, or platelet clumps, grossly hemolyzed specimens, insufficient volume, and those drawn above an IV are not acceptable. Sample stability is 24 hours at room temperature.
Cold Agglutinin	2 weeks at Room temperature	specimen clots at 37 degrees
Cryoglobulin	3 days at Room temperature	
D-Dimer	24 hr- Room Temp or Refrig	
Direct Bili	24 hr- Room Temp or Refrig	Protect from Light
Total Bilirubin	24 hr- Room Temp or Refrig	Protect from Light
ED Cardiac Panel-Biosite	4 hrs- Room Temp	
ESR	24 hr- Room Temp	Insufficient volume (Tube must be 2/3 full), specimens more than 24 hours post-collection, hemolysis, clotted specimens, and improperly labeled specimens.
Fibrinogen	4 hr- Room Temp	Patient plasma should be tested within 4 hours (centrifuged or uncentrifuged) if stored in an unopened tube at Room Temp <i>Short draw tubes, clotted and hemolyzed specimens are never acceptable.</i>
Herpes Viral Culture	4 days refrigerated, 6 months frozen	Viral Culture Medium(VCM) only
Homocysteine	1 hour- on ice	separate plasma and perform testing immediately, refrigerated plasma stable for 7 days
Ionized Calcium	1 week at Room temperature	Specimen should never have been uncapped.
Kleihauer Betke	2 hrs - Room Temp 24 hours on ice	
Lactic Acid	1 hour- on ice	Must be collected on ice and performed within 1 hr of collection

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Lupus Screen	90 days frozen, prepare platelet poor plasma, freeze immediately.	
Mixing Study	same as PT/PTT, once frozen good for 7 days.	
O&P Screen	24 hrs - Room Temp if not in preservative 2 weeks if in preservative	
Osmolality-Serum	3 hours at Room Temperature up to 10 hours refrigerated	
Osmolality-Urine	3 hours at room temperature up to 24 hours refrigerated 1 week frozen	
PFA	4 hrs- Room Temp	Patient samples are stable for up to 4 hours and must be stored at room temperature. Do not refrigerate or centrifuge sample prior to analysis. <i>Do not use the pneumatic tube; hand deliver to the lab via transport personnel. Hemolyzed specimens not accepted.</i>
PT	24 hr- Room Temp	Patient plasma should be tested within 24 hours (centrifuged or uncentrifuged) if stored in an unopened tube at Room Temp <i>Short draw tubes, clotted and hemolyzed specimens are never acceptable. Frozen platelet poor plasma good for 2 weeks at minus 20 degrees, and good for 12 months at minus 70 degrees.</i>
PTT	4 hr- Room Temp	Patient plasma should be tested within 4 hours (centrifuged or uncentrifuged) if stored in an unopened tube at Room Temp <i>Short draw tubes, clotted and hemolyzed specimens are never acceptable. Frozen platelet poor plasma good for 2 weeks at minus 20 degrees, and good for 12 months at minus 70 degrees.</i>
Retic	24 hr- Room Temp	Clotted samples or those containing clots, fibrin strands, or platelet clumps, grossly hemolyzed specimens, insufficient volume, and those drawn above an IV are not acceptable. Sample stability is 24 hours at room temperature.
Stool culture	24 hr- Room Temp no preservative 96 hrs preservative	
TEG	2 hrs- Room Temp	Specimens are stable at room temperature for two (2) hours. They must not be refrigerated, nor centrifuged. <i>Do not use the pneumatic tube.</i>
Urinalysis	Room Temp - 2 hours Refrigerated 24 hours In preservative- 72 hours	

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Urine Culture	24 hr- Refrig unpreserved; 48 hr preserved RT or Refrig	
Urine Tox Screen- Biosite	48 hrs Refrig	
Viral culture	72 hours refigetated	Viral Culture Medium(VCM) only
Rubeola Screen Varicella Zoster Screen	48 hrs- Refrig longer than 48 hrs if spec is frozen	