






Clinical Pathology Sample Collection and Handling Guide

IDEXX BioAnalytics provides these tubes at no charge. To request tubes, please submit a [Supply Request Form](#) on our website. If you have any other questions, please contact Client Support Services at IDEXXBioAnalytics@IDEXX.com




Sample Type	Serum* Blood Chemistry, Immunology, Endocrinology	Whole Blood Hematology, Fluids or Cytology
Tube Types	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>SST-SERUM Separator Tube</p> <p>4mL or 8mL</p> <p>No anticoagulant red cap with yellow ring, clot activator with gel</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>RTT-RED Top Tube</p> <p>4 mL or 9 mL</p> <p>Black ring, with clot activator</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>SST-MINI Gold Top Tube</p> <p>0.8 mL</p> <p>Clot activator and gel</p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>LTT-LAVENDER Top Tube</p> <p>2mL or 9mL</p> <p>EDTA anticoagulant lavender cap with white ring</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>LTT-MINI Top Tube</p> <p>0.5 mL</p> </div> </div>
Sample Handling	<p>Gently invert tube 5-10X after collection.</p> <p>Let sample clot for approximately 15-20 minutes at room temperature.</p> <p>Centrifuge @ approximately 2500 rpm for 10-15 minutes.</p>	<p>Fill tube to appropriate fill line. (Proper blood to anticoagulant ratio is important for accurate results.)</p> <p>Gently invert the tube 5-10X to prevent clotting.</p>
Sample Storage <i>Note: analyte stability depends on storage temperature and biological half-life.</i>	<p>Draw off serum into a transport tube for storage and shipment. Label the tube with sample ID and collection date and sample type.</p> <p>Store samples refrigerated @ 2-8°C if shipping within 24 hours of collection.</p> <p>Otherwise, freeze samples in transport tubes at -20°C .</p>	<p>Refrigerate. Do Not Freeze.</p>
Sample Shipping	<p>Ship samples on cold packs or dry ice.</p>	<p>Ship samples on cold packs.</p> <p>Make sure tubes do not come in direct contact with cold packs during shipment.</p>

*Do not use SST for progesterone or therapeutic drug monitoring. Use RTT with clot activator instead.

See additional tube options on reverse side

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Sample Type	Citratd Plasma Coagulation (ex. PT, PTT, fibrinogen)	Sample Transfer Tubes	Urinalysis	Microbiology
Tube Types	 <p>BTT- Blue Top Tube</p> <p>1.8 mL or 2.7 mL</p> <p>Light blue top with a black ring. sodium citrate anticoagulant (3.2%).</p>	 <p>NON-ADDITIVE FOR TRANSPORT Tube</p> <p>1.5 mL or 6 mL</p> <p>White cap with a black ring. Plain, silicone-coated plastic tube.</p>	 <p>NON-ADDITIVE Tube</p> <p>1.5 mL or 6 mL</p> <p>White cap with a black ring. Plain, silicone-coated plastic tube.</p>	<p>Refer to the Microbiology Sample Preparation and Handling Guide</p>
Sample Handling	<p>Fill tube to appropriate volume (proper blood to anticoagulant ratio is important for accurate results). Gently invert tube 5-10X to prevent clotting. Centrifuge as soon as possible @ 1500 rpm for 15 minutes. Transfer the plasma into a sample transfer tube. Label the tube with sample ID, collection date and "citratd plasma."</p>	<p>Label the tube with Sample ID, collection date, and sample type (i.e. "serum")</p>		
Sample Storage <i>Note: analyte stability depends on storage temperature and biological half-life.</i>	<p>Freeze at -20°C until shipped for analysis. Label the tube with sample ID, collection date and sample type (ie. "serum").</p>	<p>Refer to the sample handling, storage and shipment directions for the appropriate sample type.</p>	<p>Refrigerate, do not freeze.</p>	
Sample Shipping	<p>Ship samples on cold packs or dry ice.</p>		<p>Ship on cold packs.</p>	

See additional tube options on reverse side