

Laboratory In-house Specimen Requirements Job Aide

Chemistry

Order	Preferred Container	Alternate Container	Specimen Stability			Notes
			Ambient	Refrigerated	Frozen	
Acetaminophen Level	Red	Dk G Li Hep	4 hours	7 days	n/a	RVC - 8 hours, 14 days, 45 days
Albumin Level	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	4 hours	3 days	6 months	RVC - 8 hours, 2 days
Albumin Level Body Fluid	Sterile Cont	n/a	4 hours	3 days	6 months	
Alcohol Level	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	n/a	3 days, unopened	3 months	Non-alcohol prep
Alcohol Level (RVC Ethyl Alcohol)	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	2 days	2 weeks	Indefinite	Non-alcohol prep
Alkaline Phosphatase	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	8 hours	7 days	6 months	
ALT	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	8 hours	7 days	1 month	
Ammonia Level	Dk G Li Hep	n/a	n/a	30 minutes	1 month	Draw on ice. Lab in <30min.
Amylase Level	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	7 days	6 months	1 year	
Amylase Level 24 Hr Urine	Urin Cont 24hr	n/a	2 hours	2 days pH adjust	2 weeks	
Amylase Level Body Fluid	Sterile Cont	n/a	7 days	6 months	1 year	
Amylase Level Urine	Urine Yellow	n/a	2 hours	2 days, pH adjust	2 weeks	
AST	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	3 days	7 days	1 month	
Ast/ld	Lt Green Li	SST, Gold SST, Red	3 days	n/a	n/a	
Basic Metabolic Panel	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	2 hours	3 days	3 months	Includes Gluc, BUN, Creat, NA, K, Cl, CO2, Anion Gap, Calcium RVC- 2 days refrigerated
Beta Hydroxybutyrate (BOH, B-OH)	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	8 hours	1 week	n/a	
Bilirubin Fractionation	Lt Green Li	SST, Gold SST, Red	4 hours	5 days	3 months	Protect from light. RVC- 8 hours, 7 days, 6 months
Bilirubin Total	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	4 hours	5 days	6 months	Protect from light. RVC- 8 hours, 7 days, 6 months
Bilirubin, Direct	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	4 hours	5 days	3 months	Protect from light. RVC- 8 hours, 7 days, 6 months
Bilirubin, Indirect	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	4 hours	5 days	3 months	Protect from light. RVC- 8 hours, 7 days, 6 months
Blood Urea Nitrogen	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	5 days	7 days	Indefinite	
Calcium Level 24 Hour Urine	Urin Cont 24hr	n/a	2 hours	7 days	6 months	

Order	Preferred Container	Alternate Container	Specimen Stability			Notes
			Ambient	Refrigerated	Frozen	
Calcium Level Total	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	2 hours	7 days	6 months	RVC- 8 hours, 2 days
Calcium Level Urine	Urine Yellow	n/a	2 hours	7 days	6 months	
Calcium/Creatinine Ratio Urine	Urin Cont 24hr	n/a	2 hours	4 days	6 months	
Cannabinoids	Urine Yellow	Sterile Cont	1 hour	24 hours	1 year	
Carbamazepine Level	Red	Dk G Li Hep	4 hours	7 days	n/a	
Carbon Dioxide Level	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet				Keep capped until ready to run. Stability is 1 hour after uncapped.
Carbon Dioxide level (RVC ECO2)	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	8 hours	2 days	6 months	Keep capped until ready to run. Stability is 1 hour after uncapped.
CEA	Tall Gold	SST, Gold SST, Lav PI	8 hours	48 hours	6 months	
Chloride Level	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	7 days	7 days	1 year	
Chloride Level 24 Hour Urine	Urin Cont 24hr	n/a	2 hours	7 days	1 year	
Chloride Level Urine	Urine Yellow	n/a	2 hours	7 days	1 year	
Cholesterol Level Body Fluid	Sterile Cont	n/a	8 hours	7 days	3 months	
Cholesterol Total	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	8 hours	7 days	3 months	
CK/Troponin	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck SST, Gold SST, Red	8 hours	2 days	29 days	
Comprehensive Metabolic Panel	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	2 hours	3 days	3 months	Includes Gluc, BUN, Creat, NA, K, Cl, CO2 (1 hr uncapped), Ca, ALP, ALT, AST, ALB, TP, TBIL RVC - 8 hours, 2 days, 3 months
Cortisol	Tall Gold	Gold SST, Red, Dk G Li Hep, Lav PI	8 hours	48 hours	6 months	
Cortisol 0 Min	Tall Gold	Gold SST, Red, Dk G Li Hep, Lav PI	8 hours	48 hours	6 months	
Cortisol 30 Min	Tall Gold	Gold SST, Red, Dk G Li Hep, Lav PI	8 hours	48 hours	6 months	
Cortisol 60 Min	Tall Gold	Gold SST, Red, Dk G Li Hep, Lav PI	8 hours	48 hours	6 months	
C-Reactive Protein	Lt Green Li	SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	4 hours	7 days	8 months	
C-Reactive Protein High Sensitivity (CV Risk)	Lt Green Li	SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	8 hours	7 days	8 months	
Creatine Kinase	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet, Tall Gold	8 hours	7 days	1 month	
Creatinine	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	24 hours	7 days	3 months	RVC- 48 hours refrigerated

Creatinine 24 Hour Urine	Urin Cont 24hr	n/a	2 hours	4 days	6 months	
Creatinine Body Fluid	Sterile Cont	n/a	2 hours	24 hours	1 month	
Order	Preferred Container	Alternate Container	Specimen Stability			Notes
			Ambient	Refrigerated	Frozen	
Creatinine Clearance	Urin Cont 24hr	n/a	2 hours	4 days	6 months	Must include blood creatinine.
Creatinine Urine	Urine Yellow	n/a	2 hours	4 days	6 months	
Digoxin Level	Red	Dk G Li Hep	8 hours	7 days	6 months	
Drugs of Abuse Screen, Urine with reflex to Confirmation	Urine Yellow	Sterile Cont	1 hour	24 hours	1 year	
Electrolyte Panel	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	7 days	7 days	1 year	Includes NA, K, CL, CO2
Ferritin	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet, Tall Gold	8 hours	7 days	6 months	
Folate Lvl	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet, Tall Gold	2 hours	8 hours	1 month	Protect from light
Free T4	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	24 hours	14 days	3 months	
FSH	Tall Gold	Gold SST, Lav Pl, Lt Green Li	8 hours	48 hours	6 months	
Gentamicin Level, Peak	Red	Dk G Li Hep	4 hours	7 days	n/a	1 hour post dosage
Gentamicin Level, Trough	Red	Dk G Li Hep	4 hours	7 days	n/a	Pre-dosage
Gentamicin, Random Level	Red	Dk G Li Hep	4 hours	7 days	n/a	
GGT(Gamma Glutamyl Transferase)	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	7 days	7 days	6 months	
Glucose 1 Hour	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	8 hours	3 days	6 months	
Glucose 2 Hour	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	8 hours	3 days	6 months	
Glucose 2 Hour-75g	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	8 hours	3 days	6 months	
Glucose 3 Hour	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	8 hours	3 days	6 months	
Glucose 4 Hour	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	8 hours	3 days	6 months	
Glucose 5 Hour	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	8 hours	3 days	6 months	
Glucose 6 Hour	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	8 hours	3 days	6 months	
Glucose Level	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	8 hours	3 days	6 months	
Glucose Level Body Fluid	Sterile Cont	n/a	8 hours	3 days	6 months	
Glucose Level, CSF	Sterile Cont	n/a	8 hours	3 days	6 months	
Glucose Tolerance Test 1 Hour	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	8 hours	3 days	6 months	
Glucose, Fasting Plasma	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	8 hours	3 days	6 months	
Haptoglobin	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	8 hours	7 days	3 months	
HCG, Beta Qual, Serum	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	24 hours	7 days	2 months	RVC- 48 hours refrigerated

Order	Preferred Container	Alternate Container	24 hours	7 days	2 months	Notes
			Specimen Stability			
			Ambient	Refrigerated	Frozen	
HCG, Beta Quant, Serum	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	24 hours	7 days	2 months	RVC- 48 hours refrigerated
HDL Cholesterol	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	8 hours	7 days	3 months	Patient fasting 12 hours Freeze at -70°C
Hemoglobin A1c (Glycosylated)	Lavender	n/a	3 days	7 days	n/a	Do not freeze
Hepatic (Liver) Function Panel - LFTs	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	4 hours	3 days	1 month	Includes ALP, ALT, AST, ALB, DBIL, TBIL, TP RVC - 8 hours, 2 days, 1 month
Hepatitis B Surface Antigen	Tall Gold	Red, Lav PI, Dk G Na Hep PI	24 hours	14 days	6 months	Fill tube completely
HIV Screen-1/O/2 Ab / p24 Ag	Tall Gold	Gold SST, Lav PI, Dk G Li Hep PI, Dk G Na Hep PI	24 hours	14 days	8 months	Fill tube completely
Homocysteine Level	Pink	Lavender	n/a	48 hours	13 weeks	On ice. Deliver immediately.
Insulin, fasting	Tall Gold	Gold SST, Red	8 hours	8 hours	6 months	
Iron Level	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet, Tall Gold	8 hours	7 days	6 months	
Iron Level and TIBC	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red	8 hours	7 days	6 months	
Lactate Dehydrogenase	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	3 days	n/a	n/a	
Lactic Acid Body Fluid	Sterile Cont	n/a	15 minutes	n/a	n/a	
Lactic Acid, CSF	Sterile Cont	n/a	2 hours	2 days	6 months	
Lactic Acid, Plasma (Venous)	Grey	n/a	15 minutes	24 hours	1 month	Draw on ice. Lab in <15 minutes. No tourniquet.
LDH Body Fluid	Sterile Cont	n/a	3 days	n/a	n/a	
LDL, Direct	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	24 hours	3 days	1 month	Patient fasting 12 hours
Lidocaine	Red	Dk G Li Hep	70 days	70 days	1 year	
Lipase Level	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	24 hours	7 days	12 months	
Lipid Panel (Chol, Trig, HDL, LDL, VLDL)	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet, Tall Gold	4 hours	7 days	3 months	Includes Chol, HDL, Trig
Lipid Panel with Rflx Direct LDL	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet, Tall Gold	4 hours	7 days	3 months	Includes Chol, HDL, Trig
Lithium Level	Red	Dk G Na, Red Bullet	24 hours	7 days	6 months	12 hours post-dose collection recommended.
Luteinizing Hormone	Tall Gold	Gold SST, Red	8 hours	48 hours	6 months	
Magnesium Level	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	7 days	7 days	12 months	
Microalbumin Level 24 Hour Urine	Urin Cont 24hr	n/a	2 hours	48 hours	n/a	

Order	Preferred Container	Alternate Container	Specimen Stability			Notes
			Ambient	Refrigerated	Frozen	
Microalbumin,U	Urine Yellow	n/a	2 hours	48 hours	n/a	
N-Terminal Pro B-Type Natriuretic Peptide	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	3 days	3 days	12 months	
Osmolality Urine	Urine Yellow	Sterile Container	24 hours	24 hours	n/a	
Osmolality, Serum	Tall Gold	Gold SST	48 hours	48 hours	n/a	
Parathyroid Hormone Intact, Intraoperative/Post Operative	Tall Gold	Gold SST, Lavender, Pink, Dk G Li Hep PI, Dk G Na Hep PI	8 hours	8 hours	1 month	EDTA PI: 25 hours, 14 days, N/A Li Hep & Na Hep PI: 9 hours, 72 hours, N/A
Parathyroid Hormone, Intact	Tall Gold	Gold SST, Lavender, Pink, Dk G Li Hep PI, Dk G Na Hep PI	8 hours	8 hours	1 month	EDTA PI: 25 hours, 14 days, N/A Li Hep & Na Hep PI: 9 hours, 72 hours, N/A
pH Body Fluid	Sterile Cont	n/a	2 hours	8 hours	n/a	
Phenobarbital Level	Red	Dk G Li Hep	2 days	30 days	3 months	
Phenytoin Level	Red	Dk G Li Hep	4 hours	2 days	6 months	
Phosphorus Level	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	8 hours	7 days	3 months	RVC- 8 hours, 7 days, 3 months
Potassium Level	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	7 days	7 days	1 year	
Potassium Level 24 Hour Urine	Urin Cont 24hr	n/a	2 hours	7 days	1 year	
Potassium Urine	Urine Yellow	n/a	2 hours	7 days	1 year	
Prealbumin, Serum	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	2 hours	7 days	1 year	
Procalcitonin	Lt Green Li	n/a	4 hours	48 hours	6 months	
Progesterone Level	Tall Gold	Gold SST, Red	8 hours	2 days	6 months	
Prolactin	Tall Gold	Gold SST, Red, Lav PI, Dk G Li Hep PI	8 hours	2 days	6 months	
Protein 24 Hour Urine	Urin Cont 24hr	n/a	2 hours	3 days	6 months	
Protein Body Fluid	Sterile Cont	n/a	8 hours	3 days	6 months	
Protein Urine	Urine Yellow	n/a	2 hours	3 days	6 months	
Protein, CSF	Sterile Cont	n/a	8 hours	3 days	6 months	
Protein, Total	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	8 hours	3 days	6 months	
Protein/Creatinine Ratio Urine	Urin Cont 24hr	n/a	2 hours	3 days	6 months	
PSA Screening	Tall Gold	Gold SST, Red	8 hours	48 hours	6 months	
PSA, Diagnostic	Tall Gold	Gold SST, Red	8 hours	48 hours	6 months	
Renal Function Panel	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	2 hours	3 days	3 months	Includes Gluc, BUN, Creat, NA, K, Cl, CO2, Anion Gap, Ca, Albumin, Phos

Order	Preferred Container	Alternate Container	Specimen Stability			Notes
			Ambient	Refrigerated	Frozen	
Rheumatoid Factor	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	4 hours	7 days	3 months	
Rubella AB, IgG	Tall Gold	Gold SST, Red, Lav PI	8 hours	7 days	6 months	
Salicylate Level	Red	Dk G Li Hep	7 days	2 weeks	6 months	
Sodium Level	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	7 days	7 days	1 year	
Sodium Level 24 Hour Urine	Urin Cont 24hr	n/a	2 hours	7 days	1 year	
Sodium Urine	Urine Yellow	n/a	2 hours	7 days	1 year	
Testosterone	Tall Gold	Gold SST, Red	48 hours	7 days	>7 days	
Theophylline Level	Red	Dk G Li Hep	4 hours	7 days	6 months	
Thyroid Cascade	Tall Gold	Lt Green Li	8 hours	1 week	6 months	
Thyroid Stimulating Hormone	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red	8 hours	1 week	6 months	
Tobramycin Level, Peak	Red	Dk G Li Hep	8 hours	3 days	1 month	
Tobramycin Level, Random	Red	Dk G Li Hep	8 hours	3 days	1 month	
Tobramycin Level, Trough	Red	Dk G Li Hep	8 hours	3 days	1 month	
Total Binding Iron Capacity	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet, Tall Gold	2 hours	7 days	6 months	
Total T4 Level	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	7 days	7 days	30 days	
Tricyclic Screen, Urine	Sterile Cont	n/a	1 hour	2 days	1 month	
Triglyceride Body Fluid	Sterile Cont	n/a	4 hours	7 days	3 months	
Triglycerides	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	4 hours	7 days	3 months	
Troponin-I (cardiac marker)	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	2 hours	2 days	8 weeks	RVC-8 hours Ambient
T-Uptake	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	8 hours	2 days	1 year	
Urea Clearance	Urin Cont 24hr	n/a	2 hours	4 days	n/a	BUN also required
Urea Nitrogen 24 Hour Urine	Urin Cont 24hr	n/a	2 hours	4 days	n/a	
Urea Nitrogen Urine	Urine Yellow	n/a	2 hours	4 days	n/a	
Urea Nitrogen, Dialysate	Sterile Cont	n/a	2 hours	4 days	n/a	
Urea/Creatinine Ratio Urine	Urin Cont 24hr	n/a	2 hours	4 days	n/a	
Uric Acid	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet	8 hours	5 days	6 months	
Urine Electrolytes	Urine Yellow	n/a	2 hours	7 days	1 year	
Urine Electrolytes 24 Hour Urine	Urin Cont 24hr	n/a	2 hours	7 days	1 year	

Order	Preferred Container	Alternate Container	Specimen Stability			Notes
			Ambient	Refrigerated	Frozen	
Valproic Acid Level	Red	Dk G Li Hep	2 hours	8 days	2 months	
Vancomycin Level, Trough	Red	Dk G Li Hep	8 hours	2 days	1 month	
Vancomycin, Random Level	Red	Dk G Li Hep	8 hours	2 days	1 month	
Vitamin B12 Level	Lt Green Li	Lt Green Speck, SST, Gold SST, Red, Lt Green Bullet, Tall Gold	24 hours	48 hours	1 month	Protect from light
Vitamin D 25 Hydroxy Level	Tall Gold	Gold SST, Red, Lav Pl, Dk G Li Hep Pl, Dk G Na Hep Pl	24 hours	7 days	6 months	

Coagulation

Order	Preferred Container	Alternate Container	Specimen Stability			Notes
			Ambient	Refrigerated	Frozen	
Anti-Xa	Blue Top	n/a	8 hours	4 hours	1 month	Whole Blood - 4 hours ambient. Fill tube completely.
Antithrombin III	Blue Top	n/a	2 hours	4 hours	2 weeks	Whole Blood - 1 hour ambient. Fill tube completely.
DDimer, Quantitative	Blue Top	n/a	8 hours	4 hours	1 month	Whole Blood- 4 hours ambient. If transport >8 hours, separate and freeze. Fill tube completely.
Fibrinogen Lvl	Blue Top	n/a	8 hours	4 hours	1 month	Whole Blood- 4 hours ambient. Fill tube completely.
Partial Thromboplastin Time	Blue Top	n/a	4 hours	4 hours	2 weeks	Whole Blood - 4 hours ambient; 1 hour ambient if on Heparin therapy. Fill tube completely.
Prothrombin Time and INR	Blue Top	n/a	8 hours	n/a	2 weeks	Whole Blood- 24 hours ambient, unopened. Fill tube completely. Do not refrigerate plasma.
PT Mixing Study	Blue Top	n/a	8 hours	n/a	2 weeks	see Prothrombin Time and INR stability
PT/PTT	Blue Top	n/a	4 hours	n/a	2 weeks	Whole Blood- 4 hours ambient; 1 hour ambient if on Heparin therapy. Fill tube completely. Do not refrigerate plasma.
PTT Mixing Study	Blue Top	n/a	4 hours	4 hours	2 weeks	see Partial Thromboplastin Time stability

Hematology

Order	Preferred Container	Alternate Container	Specimen Stability			Notes
			Ambient	Refrigerated	Frozen	
Body Fluid Differential	Sterile Cont	n/a	2 hours	2 hours	n/a	
CBC w/ Diff	Lavender	Lav Bullet, Pink	8 hours	24 hours	n/a	
CBC without Diff	Lavender	Lav Bullet, Pink	8 hours	24 hours	n/a	
Cell Count- Body Fluid	Sterile Cont	n/a	2 hours	2 hours	n/a	
Crystal Examination Body Fluid	Sterile Cont	n/a	2 hours	2 days	n/a	
CSF Cell Count	Sterile Cont	n/a	2 hours	2 hours	n/a	
CSF Differential	Sterile Cont	n/a	2 hours	2 hours	n/a	
Eosinophil Total Count	Lavender	Lav Bullet, Pink	8 hours	24 hours	n/a	
Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate	Lavender	n/a	24 hours	24 hours	n/a	
Gross Exam CSF	Sterile Cont	n/a	2 hours	2 hours	n/a	
Gross Exam-Body Fluid	Sterile Cont	n/a	2 hours	2 hours	n/a	
HCT	Lavender	Lav Bullet, Pink	8 hours	24 hours	n/a	
Hemoglobin and Hematocrit (HCT and Hgb)	Lavender	Lav Bullet, Pink	8 hours	24 hours	n/a	
Hgb	Lavender	Lav Bullet, Pink	8 hours	24 hours	n/a	
Nasal Eosinophils	Swab	n/a	2 hours	n/a	n/a	
Platelet Count	Lavender	Lav Bullet	8 hours	24 hours	n/a	
Post Vasectomy Semen Analysis	Sterile Cont	n/a	30 minutes	n/a	n/a	Patients must schedule an appointment with laboratory.
Red Cell Count	Lavender	Lav Bullet	8 hours	24 hours	n/a	
Retic Count	Lavender	Lav Bullet, Pink	8 hours	24 hours	n/a	
Semen Analysis	Sterile Cont	n/a	30 minutes	n/a	n/a	Patients must schedule an appointment with laboratory.
Urine Eosinophils	Sterile Cont	n/a	1 hour	24 hours	n/a	
WBC	Lavender	Lav Bullet	8 hours	24 hours	n/a	
WBC/ Differential	Lavender	Lav Bullet	8 hours	24 hours	n/a	

Serology

Order	Preferred Container	Alternate Container	Specimen Stability			Notes
			Ambient	Refrigerated	Frozen	
ASO Titer	Tall Gold	n/a	24 hours	1 week	> 1 week	
C. difficile Ag/Toxin	Sterile Cont	STL O	N/A	72 hours	>72 hours	
Chlamydia/Gonorrhea rRNA	Aptima Vial-blue swab	Aptima Vial- urine	30 days	30 days	24 months	Stability in aptima vial. Swabs= 60 days.
Chlamydia/Gonorrhea/Trich rRNA	Aptima Vial-blue swab	Aptima Vial- urine	30 days	30 days	24 months	Stability in aptima vial. Swabs= 60 days.
Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2	VTM-NP	n/a	8 hours	7 days	n/a	
Cryptosporidium Ag, EIA	Sterile Cont	STL Y	72 hours	72 hours	7 days	
Fecal Fat- Qualitative	Sterile Cont	n/a	14 days	14 days	14 days	
Fecal Occult Blood (Guaiac), Rand	Sterile Cont	n/a	< 24 hours			
Fecal Occult Blood- Diagnostic	Sterile Cont	n/a	< 24 hours			
Fecal Occult Blood- Screening	Sterile Cont	n/a	< 24 hours			
Fetal Fibronectin	FFN KIT	n/a	8 hours	3 days	n/a	
Giardia Ag, EIA	Sterile Cont	STL Y	72 hours	72 hours	7 days	
Giardia/Cryptosporidium Ag, EIA	Sterile Cont	STL Y	72 hours	72 hours	7 days	
Group A Streptococcus Ag	Swab	n/a	48 hours	48 hours	n/a	
Group A Streptococcus Ag w/ Reflex culture	Swab	n/a	48 hours	48 hours	n/a	
India Ink	Sterile Cont	n/a	2 hours	2 hours	n/a	
Infectious Mononucleosis Screen	Tall Gold	Lavender	24 hours	48 hours	>48 hours	
Influenza A & B Ag	Swab	n/a	1 hour-unpreserved specimen	24 hours in VTM	n/a	Nasal or NP swabs accepted.
Lactoferrin	Sterile Cont	n/a	2 weeks	2 weeks	>2 weeks	
Legionella Antigen Urine	Sterile Cont	Urine Yellow	24 hours	14 days	>14 days	
Monospot reflex to EBV Abs	Tall Gold	Lavender	24 hours	48 hours	>48 hours	
Mycoplasma pneumoniae Antibody	Tall Gold	n/a	n/a	72 hours	>72 hours	
Rotavirus Antigen	Sterile Cont	n/a	Immediately	72 hours	>72 hours	
RPR with Reflex to Titer/FTA	Tall Gold	n/a	7 days	7 days	7 days	

Order	Preferred Container	Alternate Container	Specimen Stability			Notes
			Ambient	Refrigerated	Frozen	
RSV Antigen	Swab	n/a	1 hour-unpreserved specimen	24 hours in VTM	n/a	NP swab only.
Streptococcus Pneumoniae Antigen	Sterile Cont	Urine Yellow	24 hours	14 days	14 days	
Trichomonas vaginalis rRNA	Aptima Vial-blue swab	Aptima Vial- urine	30 days	30 days	24 months	Stability in aptima vial. Swabs= 60 days.
Wet Prep	Saline Tube	n/a	1 hour	n/a	n/a	

Urines

Order	Preferred Container	Alternate Container	Specimen Stability			Notes
			Ambient	Refrigerated	Frozen	
Gastric pH	Sterile Cont	n/a	24 hours	5 days	n/a	
Guaiac, Gastric	Sterile Cont	n/a	24 hours	5 days	n/a	
HCG Qualitative Urine	Urine Yellow	Sterile Cont	1 hour	48 hours	n/a	
pH Urine	Sterile Cont	Urine Yellow	1 hour	24 hours	n/a	
Specific Gravity Urine	Sterile Cont	Urine Yellow	1 hour	24 hours	n/a	
Urinalysis with Microscopic and Culture, if indicated	Sterile Cont	Urine Yellow	1 hour	24 hours	n/a	
Urinalysis with Microscopic, if indicated	Sterile Cont	Urine Yellow	1 hour	24 hours	n/a	
Urinalysis, no Microscopic	Sterile Cont	Urine Yellow	1 hour	24 hours	n/a	
Urine Dipstick Bilirubin	Sterile Cont	Urine Yellow	1 hour	24 hours	n/a	
Urine Dipstick Blood	Sterile Cont	Urine Yellow	1 hour	24 hours	n/a	
Urine Dipstick Glucose	Sterile Cont	Urine Yellow	1 hour	24 hours	n/a	
Urine Dipstick Ketone	Sterile Cont	Urine Yellow	1 hour	24 hours	n/a	
Urine Dipstick Protein	Sterile Cont	Urine Yellow	1 hour	24 hours	n/a	

Microbiology

Order	Preferred Container	Alternate Container	Specimen Stability			Notes
			Ambient	Refrigerated	Frozen	
Culture, Anaerobe	Anaerobic Swab	Swab, Sterile Cont	swab- 48 hours	n/a	n/a	Set up in <2 hours if not in anaerobic swab container.
Culture, Blood	BC AER, BC ANA	n/a	24 hours	n/a	n/a	
Culture, Body Fluid	Sterile Cont	n/a	2 hours	n/a	n/a	Should NOT be submitted on swab.
Culture, Cath Tip	Sterile Cont	n/a	2 hours	n/a	n/a	
Culture, Environmental	Sterile Cont	Swab	48 hours	n/a	n/a	
Culture, Fungus	Swab	Sterile Cont	48 hours	n/a	n/a	
Culture, Fungus Skin/Hair/Nail	Sterile Cont	n/a	48 hours	n/a	n/a	
Culture, Genital	Swab	n/a	24 hours	n/a	n/a	Pink or red top swabs acceptable.
Culture, Genital Strep Screen	Swab	n/a	4 days	n/a	n/a	Pink or red top swabs acceptable.
Culture, MRSA	Swab	n/a	24 hours	n/a	n/a	
Culture, Respiratory	Sterile Cont	n/a	2 hours	24 hours	n/a	
Culture, Respiratory- THROAT	Swab	n/a	24 hours	n/a	n/a	
Culture, Surgical	Swab	Sterile Cont	48 hours	n/a	n/a	
Culture, Tissue	Sterile Cont	n/a	2 hours	n/a	n/a	
Culture, Transfusion Reaction	Sterile Cont	n/a	1 hour	n/a	n/a	
Culture, Urine	Sterile Cont	Urine Gray, Urine Yellow	2 hours gray-48 hours	unpreserved- 24 hours	n/a	
Culture, Wound	Swab	Sterile Cont	48 hours	n/a	n/a	
Gram Stain	Swab	Sterile Cont	48 hours	n/a	n/a	
KOH Prep	Swab	Sterile Cont	2 hours	n/a	n/a	
Pinworm	Slide	n/a	1 hour	n/a	n/a	