Clinical Pathology Specimen Preparation

Please call ARP in advance 865-1495 – this is so that we may work efficiently to process your samples. Please notify the receptionist when you drop off any samples. Submitted samples may be placed in the mini-fridge in the CBL main office.

For CBC analysis:

- All samples should be collected in an EDTA (purple top) tube.
- Minimum blood sample volume is 30 microliters to run an accurate analysis. Volumes less than this may yield inaccurate results. We strongly recommend providing at least 40 microliters. Volume of sample should be appropriate for the size of tube used. More or less than the recommended amount for the tube can lead to inaccurate results.
- Please label blood tubes clearly and legibly
- Please fill out a sample submission form and indicate the number of samples you are submitting.
- If you bring samples in non-disposable blood tube racks, please pick the racks up at your earliest convenience.

For Chemistry/electrolyte screening:

- All blood samples should either be collected in a plain tube (red top) or lithium heparin serum separator (green top) tube.
- Minimum serum/plasma sample volume varies with the number of tests being performed.
  - A single test requires a minimum sample volume of 40 microliters, and 10 microliters for each additional test. Please call if you have questions. We strongly recommend that you provide more than the minimum sample volume required.
  - For single-slide tests, kindly give 3 days’ notice so that requested test slides may be ordered and that we may process your samples more efficiently.
  - Please DO NOT dilute samples.
- Please label tubes clearly and legibly.
- Please fill out a sample submission form and indicate the number of samples you are submitting.
- If you bring samples in non-disposable blood tube racks, please pick the racks up at your earliest convenience.

If you have any questions regarding sample collection, volume, preparation, or testing, please contact ARP at 865-1495.