

Clinical Pathology Specimen Preparation and Submission Guidelines

NOTE**Please call ARP in advance (814) 865-1495 prior to sample drop-off** – this is so that we may work efficiently to process your samples. Submitted samples may be placed in the mini-fridge in the CBL lobby. Sample submission forms are available in the bins next to the mini-fridge.

For CBC analysis:

- **All samples should be collected in an EDTA (purple top) tube.**
- **Minimum blood sample volume is 40 microliters** to run an accurate analysis. Volumes less than this may yield inaccurate results. We **strongly** recommend providing at least 50 microliters.
- **Volume of sample should be appropriate for the size of tube used.** Underfilling or overfilling the tube can lead to inaccurate results.
- Label blood tubes **clearly and legibly**.
- **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 label and 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), serum separator tube (gray/red top) or lithium/sodium heparin serum separator (green top)** tube.
- The sample should then be centrifuged, and the serum/plasma drawn off into a clean, plain Eppendorf-style tube.
- Minimum serum/plasma sample volume varies with the number of tests being performed (see table below).

Proper Sample Cup Volume

When using a Catalyst Sample Cup, 300 microliters of serum or plasma will allow you to run most test combinations. The following table provides general guidance for tests that do not include a reagent consumable. Refer to applicable quick reference guides for test-specific sample type and volume requirements.

Number of slides	Sample cup fill volume (µL)
1	60
2	70
3	80
4	90
5	100
6	110
7	120
8	130
9	190
10	200
11	210
12	220
13	230
14	240
15	250
16	260
17	270
18	280

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- It is strongly recommended 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.
- Do not dilute samples.
- 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 (814) 865-1495.