

Specimen Collection and Transport Requirements

TESTING WILL NOT BE PERFORMED IF THE SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT MET

TEST	MINIMUM SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS	
ALL SEROLOGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1mL serum or plasma. Transport on cold packs to arrive at the NRL as soon as possible following collection but within 7 days. Refrigerate during transit. If sample will not arrive within 7 days of collection, freeze and transport on dry ice. 	
HBV DNA/HCV RNA/ HIV- RNA collected from Living Donor Specimens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5mL whole blood collected in EDTA, CPD, CPDA1, CP2D and 4% sodium citrate anticoagulant tubes or serum clot tubes. 	
<p>For chilled plasma samples:</p> <p>Samples may be stored for up to 12 days with the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samples must be centrifuged within 72 hours of draw. For storage above 8°C, samples may be stored for 72 hours at up to 25°C, and up to 30°C for 24 hours during the 72 hours <p>Other than noted above samples may be stored at 2-8°C.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport to the NRL at 2-8°C. <p>For frozen plasma samples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.5mL plasma separated from the cells using aseptic techniques may be stored for to 30 days at ≤ -18°C with three freeze/thaw cycles. Transport to the NRL on dry ice. 	<p>For chilled serum samples:</p> <p>Samples may be stored for up to 7 days at 2-8°C with the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samples must be centrifuged within 72 hours of draw. For storage above 8°C, samples may be stored for 72 hours at up to 25°C, and up to 30°C for 24 hours during the 72 hours <p>Other than noted above samples may be stored at 2-8°C.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport to the NRL at 2-8°C. <p>For frozen serum samples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.5mL serum separated from the cells using aseptic techniques may be stored for to 30 days at ≤ -18°C with three freeze/thaw cycles. Transport to the NRL on dry ice. 	<p>For apheresis plasma samples:</p> <p>Samples may be stored for up to 30 days at 2-8°C with the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For storage above 8°C, samples may be stored for 72 hours at up to 25°C, and up to 30°C for 24 hours during the 72 hours.

TEST	MINIMUM SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS
HBV DNA/HCV RNA/ HIV- RNA collected from Cadaver Donor Specimens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5mL whole blood collected in EDTA or serum clot tubes.
<p>For chilled cadaveric plasma samples:</p> <p>Samples may be stored for up to 8 days at 2-8°C with the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samples must be centrifuged within 72 hours of draw. For storage above 8°C, samples may be stored for up to 30°C for 24 hours during the 72 hours. Transport to the NRL at 2-8°C. 	<p>For chilled cadaveric serum samples:</p> <p>Samples may be stored for up to 5 days at 2-8°C with the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samples must be centrifuged within 72 hours of draw. For storage above 8°C, samples may be stored for 24 hours at up to 30°C during the 72 hours Transport to the NRL at 2-8°C.
<p>For frozen cadaveric plasma samples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be stored up to 14 days at less than or equal to -18°C. 	
HTLV Pro-Viral Load	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole blood collected into EDTA and transported at ambient temperature (store at ambient temperature on arrival) Buffy coat, BAL or CSF transported on dry ice (store at -70°C on arrival) DBS transported at ambient temperature (store at 4°C on arrival)

SPECIMENS SENT BY AIRFREIGHT MUST COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- The sample should be packed and shipped in accordance with the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations
- For the specimens referred outside Australia, a copy of the NRL import permit and customs declaration should be attached to the parcel. A copy of the import permit and customs declaration template will be faxed.
- The parcel should be addressed to:

Philippa Hetzel
Director
NRL
4th Floor Healy Building
41 Victoria Parade
FITZROY VICTORIA 3065
AUSTRALIA

Packages should not arrive on the weekend without prior arrangement.

Specimen Enquiries: +61 3 9418 1111