

Sample Preparation

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Blood Sample Preparation Checklist		
Blood slide	At the time of venipuncture	
Separation of serum from cells	After full clot formation 30 minutes with clot activator 60 minutes without	Rim clot to detach fibrin from edges and rubber stopper
Automated cbc	Within 4 hours of collection	Refrigerate if delayed
Gently mix whole blood	Prevent hemolysis	Artificially high samples if plasma is removed
Warm samples to room temp	Before mixing to minimize hemolysis	Accurate testing of total plasma protein and serology requires room temperature samples and reagents

Centrifuge speeds	Centrifuge speeds (rpms)	General speeds
Serum	3500 rpms	10 minutes
Urine	1800 rpms	5 minutes
Fecal	1500 rpms	6 minutes
Hematocrit (manual PCV)	Higher speeds than other samples 3500 rpms, 5000 rpms, and some as high as 10,000 rpms Varies depending on centrifuge	5-8 minutes
Speed is dependent on tube length & sample type		
Always balance centrifuge with similar type of fluid by weight, tube type, and volume		
Some tests require centrifuged urine while others are best performed on mixed urine samples		