

Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

MICROBIOLOGY

Analyte	Specimen Type	Typical Turnaround Time	Stability and Storage
<i>Aspergillus</i> Galactomannan Antigen	5mL venous serum or Bronchoalveolar lavage.	3-5 working days	<p>Unopened serum specimens can be stored at 2-8°C for up to 5 days prior to testing.</p> <p>After initial opening, serum specimens may be stored at 2-8°C for 48 hours prior to testing.</p> <p>BAL specimens may be stored at 2-8°C for up to 24 hours prior to testing.</p>
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	<p>Endocervical, vaginal and male urethral Aptima collection swab specimens</p> <p>or</p> <p>Female and male urine specimens, with a final volume between the black fill lines of a urine specimen transport tube.</p>	Next working day	<p>Specimens must be tested within 30 days of collection and stored at 2-30°C prior to testing.</p> <p>Specimens collected in a non-Aptima collection device must be delivered to the laboratory and transferred to an Aptima tube within 24 hours of collection.</p> <p>First Catch Urine (FCU) technique should be applied in order to maximise chances of a positive sample (due to overnight accumulation of organisms in the urethra).</p>
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> (Combined <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> (CT) and <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> NAAT (GC))	<p>Endocervical, vaginal, male urethral, throat and rectal Aptima collection swab specimens</p> <p>or</p> <p>Female and male urine specimens, with a final volume between the black fill lines of a urine specimen transport tube.</p>	Next working day	<p>Specimens must be tested within 30 days of collection and stored at 2-30°C prior to testing.</p> <p>Specimens collected in a non-Aptima collection device must be delivered to the laboratory and transferred to an Aptima tube within 24 hours of collection.</p> <p>First Catch Urine (FCU) technique should be applied in order to maximise chances of a positive sample (due to overnight accumulation of organisms in the urethra).</p>

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Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

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<i>Clostridioides difficile</i> toxin PCR	Loose Stool	2-4 working days	Specimens should be transported to the laboratory as promptly as possible after collection. Samples not tested within 24 hours of receipt in the laboratory should be stored at 2-8°C and tested within 3 days.
Microscopy, Culture and Sensitivity - Urine	Female and male MSU or CSU, 5-10ml in urine monovette ideally containing boric acid. Nephrostomy/ urine, or Urostomy 5-10 ml sterile container.	1-2 working days	Specimens should be stored at 2-8°C before testing. For specimens collected in tubes containing boric acid, testing can be performed up to 4 days (96 hours) after collection. **For specimens without boric acid, testing is acceptable for up to 2 days (48 hours).
Culture and Sensitivity	eSwab with regular flock swab used for collection of material from eye, ear, mouth, throat, nose, high-vaginal, superficial wound, skin, deep wound sites. MRSA Dual eSWAB Blue Cap used for collection of swabs from nasal and groin sites for MRSA screening. Gel amies swabs used for collection of material from eye, ear, mouth, throat, nose, high-vaginal, superficial wound and deep wound swab sites. Can also be used for MRSA, VRE, CPE & ESBL screens.	3-5 working days depending on +/- result.	*** Specimens are acceptable for up to 3 days (72 hours) when stored at 2-8°C.

Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

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Culture and Sensitivity- Cervical, Penile, Urethral^	Cervical Swab (Black or Blue Micro Swab)	2-8 working days	#Specimens must be tested within 3 days (72 hrs) and stored at room temperature.
Culture and Sensitivity- Body Fluid, Fluid (General), Pus, Aspirate ^	Fluid/Aspirate Culture - Sterile container	2-8 working days	#Specimens must be tested within 3 days (72 hrs) and stored at room temperature.
Culture – Device^	Sterile container	2-4 working days	#Specimens must be tested within 3 days (72 hrs) and stored at room temperature.
Culture - Ear	eSwab with regular flock swab used for collection of material or gel amies swabs.	2-3 working days	*** Specimens are acceptable for up to 3 days (72 hours) when stored at 2-8°C.
Culture - Eye	eSwab with regular flock swab used for collection of material or gel amies swabs.	2-3 working days	*** Specimens are acceptable for up to 3 days (72 hours) when stored at 2-8°C.
Culture - Genital	eSwab with regular flock swab used for collection of material or gel amies swabs.	2-3 working days	*** Specimens are acceptable for up to 3 days (72 hours) when stored at 2-8°C.

Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

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Culture - Groin	eSwab with regular flock swab used for collection of material or gel amies swabs.	2-3 working days	*** Specimens are acceptable for up to 3 days (72 hours) when stored at 2-8°C.
Culture - IUD^	Sterile container	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 3 days of collection and stored at Room Temperature.
Culture - Joint fluid^	Sterile container	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 3 days of collection and stored at Room Temperature.
Culture - Mouth	eSwab with regular flock swab used for collection of material or gel amies swabs.	2-3 working days	*** Specimens are acceptable for up to 3 days (72 hours) when stored at 2-8°C.
Culture - Nasal	eSwab with regular flock swab used for collection of material or gel amies swabs.	2-3 working days	*** Specimens are acceptable for up to 3 days (72 hours) when stored at 2-8°C.
Culture - Pus^	Sterile container or pus swab	2-4 working days	#Specimens must be tested within 3 days (72 hrs) and stored at room temperature.
Culture - Rectal	eSwab with regular flock swab used for collection of material or gel amies swabs.	2-3 working days	*** Specimens are acceptable for up to 3 days (72 hours) when stored at 2-8°C.

Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

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Culture – Semen [^]	Semen (sterile container)	3-5 working days	Specimens should be tested within 24 hours of collection.
Culture – Sputum [^]	Sterile container	2-3 working days	#Specimens must be tested within 3 days (72 hrs) and stored at room temperature.
Culture – Skin	eSwab with regular flock swab used for collection of material or gel amies swabs.	2-3 working days	*** Specimens are acceptable for up to 3 days (72 hours) when stored at 2-8°C.
Culture – Swab Miscellaneous /Other/Not stated [^]	eSwab with regular flock swab used for collection of material or gel amies swabs.	2-3 working days	Specimens must be tested within 3 days of collection and stored at Room Temperature.
Culture - Throat	eSwab with regular flock swab used for collection of material or gel amies swabs.	2-3 working days	*** Specimens are acceptable for up to 3 days (72 hours) when stored at 2-8°C.
Culture – Tissue [^]	Sterile container	2-4 working days	#Specimens must be tested within 3 days (72 hrs) and stored at room temperature.
Culture – Synovial fluid [^]	Sterile container	2-4 working days	#Specimens must be tested within 3 days (72 hrs) and stored at room temperature.

Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

Analyte	Specimen Type	Typical Turnaround Time	Stability and Storage
Culture – deep wound	eSwab with regular flock swab used for collection of material or gel amies swabs.	2-3 working days	*** Specimens are acceptable for up to 3 days (72 hours) when stored at 2-8°C.
Culture – superficial wound	eSwab with regular flock swab used for collection of material or gel amies swabs.	2-3 working days	*** Specimens are acceptable for up to 3 days (72 hours) when stored at 2-8°C.
CPE Screen	Rectal Swab	1-2 working days	*** Specimens are acceptable for up to 3 days (72 hours) when stored at 2-8°C.
MRSA Screen	eSwab with regular flock swab used for collection of material or gel amies swabs.	1-2 working days	*** Specimens are acceptable for up to 3 days (72 hours) when stored at 2-8°C.
VRE Screen	eSwab with regular flock swab used for collection of material or gel amies swabs.	1-3 working days	*** Specimens are acceptable for up to 3 days (72 hours) when stored at 2-8°C.
(1-3)-β-D-Glucan	5mL venous serum.	3-5 working days	Specimens must be tested within 14 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
<i>Helicobacter Pylori</i> Antibody	5mL venous serum.	3 working days	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C. Serum samples after clotting should be centrifuged after being taken.

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Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

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<i>Helicobacter Pylori</i> Antigen^	Stool	3 working days	Specimens must be tested within 3 days of collection and stored at Room Temperature.
Faeces PCR (Viral, norovirus GI/GII, rotavirus A, adenovirus 40/41, sapovirus I/II/IV/V, astrovirus.	Liquid/loose stool samples from symptomatic patients.	2-4 working days	Specimens should be transported to the laboratory as promptly as possible after collection. Samples not tested within 24 hours of receipt in the laboratory should be stored at 2-8 °C and tested within 4 days.
Faeces PCR (Extended panel, Full bacterial/viral and toxin panel)^	Liquid/loose stool samples from symptomatic patients.	4-5 working days	Specimens should be transported to the laboratory as promptly as possible after collection. Samples not tested within 24 hours of receipt in the laboratory should be stored at 2-8 °C and tested within 4 days
Faeces PCR (routine <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>Shigella</i> , <i>Giardia</i> , <i>Cryptosporidium</i> , <i>Campylobacter</i> , <i>STEC</i>)	Stool samples from symptomatic individuals	2-4 working days	Specimens should be transported to the laboratory as promptly as possible after collection. Samples not tested within 24 hours of receipt in the laboratory should be stored at 2-8°C and tested within 3 days
Fungal Culture^	Any specimen other than skin/hair/nails	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 14 days of collection and stored at Room Temperature.
Microscopic examination using Gram Stain	High Vaginal Swab/ Low Vaginal Swab	2 working days for negative results.	*** Specimens are acceptable for up to 3 days (72 hours) when stored at 2-8°C.
Mycology/Skin Scrapings ^	Skin, Hair Nails	8-9 working days	Specimens must be tested within 14 days of collection and stored at room temperature.

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Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

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<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> (Combined <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> (CT) and <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> NAAT (GC))	Endocervical, vaginal and male urethral Aptima collection swab specimens or Female and male urine specimens, with a final volume between the black fill lines of a urine specimen transport tube.	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 30 days of collection and stored at 2-30°C prior to testing. Specimens collected in a non-Aptima collection device must be delivered to the laboratory and transferred to an Aptima tube within 24 hours of collection. First Catch Urine (FCU) technique should be applied in order to maximise chances of a positive sample (due to overnight accumulation of organisms in the urethra).
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	Endocervical, vaginal, male urethral throat and rectal Aptima collection swab specimens or Female and male urine specimens, with a final volume between the black fill lines of a urine specimen transport tube.	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 30 days of collection and stored at 2-30°C prior to testing. Specimens collected in a non-Aptima collection device must be delivered to the laboratory and transferred to an Aptima tube within 24 hours of collection. First Catch Urine (FCU) technique should be applied in order to maximise chances of a positive sample (due to overnight accumulation of organisms in the urethra).
Ova Cysts and Parasites^	Stool	5-7 working days	Specimens must be tested within 3 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C. Clinical details must be provided.
<i>Pneumocystis jirovecii</i> DNA^	Bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL), non-directed bronchial lavage (NBL) and sputum samples.	4-6 working days	Specimens must be tested within 48hrs of collection and stored at 2-8°C.

Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

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Syphilis <i>Treponemal pallidum</i> total Antibody	5mL venous serum or plasma or 0.8mL capillary serum.	Next working day <i>Samples sent for confirmatory testing will take longer.</i>	Venous blood specimens must be tested within 72 hours of collection hours if stored at room temperature. Venous blood specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection if stored at 2-8°C. Capillary blood specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection.
Syphilis Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR) Assay	5mL venous serum or plasma or 0.8mL capillary serum.	Next working day	Venous blood specimens must be tested within 72 hours of collection hours if stored at room temperature. Venous blood specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection if stored at 2-8°C. Capillary blood specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection (RT/ 2-8°C).
TB Culture^ (Mycobacterial investigation)	Sterile Container	6 to 8 weeks	Specimens must be tested within 3 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
16S/18S rRNA gene detection	Bodily fluids (including but not limited to synovial fluids, pleural fluid, and drainage fluids from sterile sites) and tissue.	2 working days	Specimens must be stored at 2-8°C and tested within 7 days of collection. Samples must <u>not</u> be frozen.
16S and/or 18S rRNA amplicon sequencing Bacterial and/or fungal species	Bodily fluids (including but not limited to synovial fluids, pleural fluid, and drainage fluids from sterile sites) and tissue.	2 working days	Specimens must be stored at 2-8°C and tested within 7 days of collection. Samples must <u>not</u> be frozen.

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Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

Analyte	Specimen Type	Typical Turnaround Time	Stability and Storage
Metagenomic pathogen detection Bacterial species	Bodily fluids (including but not limited to synovial fluids, pleural fluid, and drainage fluids from sterile sites) and tissue.	7-10 working days	Specimens must be stored at 2-8°C and tested within 7 days of collection. Samples must <u>not</u> be frozen.

**** Note** - samples may be tested up to day 3 (72 hours) but a comment will be added to report noting the sample is beyond recommended stability and results should be interpreted with caution.

*****Note** - samples may be tested up to day 5 (120 hours) but a comment will be added to report noting the sample is beyond recommended stability and results should be interpreted with caution.

#Note - Referral tests with a 3-day stability are best received at the laboratory on the day of sampling. If possible, please do not send these specimens on Friday as we cannot guarantee stability of samples over the weekend.

Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

VIROLOGY

Analyte	Specimen Type	Typical Turnaround Time	Stability and Storage
CMV igG [^]	5 mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-3 working days	Specimens must be tested within 14 days and stored at 2-8°C.
Hepatitis A IgG & IgM [^]	5 mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 7 days and stored at 2-8°C.
Antibody to Hepatitis B surface antigen (AHBs)	5mL venous serum or plasma or 0.8mL capillary serum	Next working day	Venous blood specimens must be tested within 24 hours of collection if stored at room temperature. Venous blood specimens must be tested within 6 days of collection if stored at 2-8°C. Capillary blood specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection.
Hepatitis B Core antibody (AHBc)	5mL venous serum or plasma or 0.8mL capillary serum	Next working day. <i>Samples sent for confirmation will take longer.</i>	Venous blood specimens must be tested within 3 days of collection if stored at room temperature. Venous blood specimens must be tested within 14 days of collection if stored at 2-8°C. Capillary blood specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection.
Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)	5mL venous serum or plasma or 0.8mL capillary serum	Next working day	Venous blood specimens must be tested within 24 hours of collection if stored at room temperature. Venous blood specimens must be tested within 6 days of collection if stored at 2-8°C. Capillary blood specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection.

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Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

Analyte	Specimen Type	Typical Turnaround Time	Stability and Storage
Hepatitis C IgG Antibody	5mL venous serum or plasma or 0.8mL capillary serum	Next working day <i>Samples sent for confirmatory testing will take longer.</i>	Venous blood specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C. Capillary blood specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection.
Hepatitis C PCR [^] (HCV RNA)	5 mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 7 days and stored at room temperature.
Herpes simplex Virus (HSV-Urine) [^]	Urine	5-6 working days	Specimens must be tested within 7 days and stored at 2-8°C.
Herpes simplex Virus (HSV PCR- Multisite swab) [^]	Multisite swab	5-6 working days	Specimens must be tested within 7 days and stored at 2-8°C.
HSV-PCR (Individual Molecular screen)	Multisite swab	5-6 working days	Specimens must be tested within 7 days and stored at 2-8°C.
Human Immunodeficiency Virus Ag/Ab (HIV)	5mL venous serum or plasma or 0.8mL capillary serum	Next working day <i>Samples sent for confirmatory testing will take longer.</i>	Venous blood specimens must be tested within 3 days of collection if stored at room temperature. Venous blood specimens must be tested within 14 days of collection if stored at 2-8°C. Capillary blood specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection.
Influenza A RNA ^{1 ^} Influenza B RNA ^{1 ^}	Nasopharyngeal Swab (NPS) placed in up to 3 mL of transport media	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection if stored at room temperature.
Measles/Mumps/Rubella IgG screen [^]	5 mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 24 hours of collection if stored at room temperature. If stored at 2-8°C they must be tested within 7 days.

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Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

Analyte	Specimen Type	Typical Turnaround Time	Stability and Storage
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (A/B) RNA ¹ ^	Nasopharyngeal Swab (NPS) placed in up to 3 mL of transport media	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection if stored at room temperature.
Rubella IgG Antibody	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 14 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
SARS-CoV-2 RNA ⁻² ^	Nasopharyngeal/Oropharyngeal swab placed in up to 3 mL of transport media	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection if stored at room temperature.
Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV) IgG^(Immune status)	5 mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection if stored at room temperature or 2-8°C.

¹ Analytes are available as part of a PCR respiratory panel testing for Influenza A/B & RSV

² Analyte can also be carried out as a stand-alone test or as part of a PCR respiratory panel testing, see below for the full list of analytes on this panel.

#Respiratory PCR Panel 1

#Extended Respiratory PCR Panel 2

Analytes	Analytes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influenza A^ • Influenza B^ • Respiratory Syncytial Virus^ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SARS-CoV-2^ • Influenza A^ • Influenza B^ • Respiratory Syncytial Virus^

Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

Turnaround times stated for Clinical Chemistry analytes apply to routine requests. For samples that meet the criteria for urgent testing, the laboratory will endeavour to report results within 4 hours of receipt during operational hours if received before 16:00, unless otherwise specified in the service level agreement.

Analyte	Specimen Type	Typical Turnaround Time	Stability and Storage
Active B12	5mL venous serum	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 3 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Alanine Aminotransferase (ALT)	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 3 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Albumin (ALB)	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Venous specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Alkaline phosphatase (ALP)	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Alpha-fetoprotein	5mL venous serum	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Amylase	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Androstenedione^	5mL venous serum	2-6 working days	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 7 days of collection and stored at room temperature.
Anti-Mullerian Hormone (AMH)	5mL venous serum or Plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 6 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Anti Thyroglobulin Antibody	5mL venous serum	Next working day	Specimens must be spun within 8 hours and tested within 3 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.

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Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

Analyte	Specimen Type	Typical Turnaround Time	Stability and Storage
			Remove serum from clot or separator gel if testing will be delayed more than 8 hours.
Aspartate aminotransferase (AST)	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Apolipoprotein B	5mL venous serum	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 3 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
*Beta-Human Chorionic Gonadotropin (βHCG)	5mL venous serum or Plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Bilirubin Total	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
C-Reactive protein high sensitivity (CRP-HS)	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
*Cancer Antigen 125 (CA 125)	5mL venous serum	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Cancer Antigen 15-3 (CA 15-3)	5mL venous serum	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Cancer Antigen 19-9 (CA 19-9)	5mL venous serum	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Calcium	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Adjusted Calcium (calculated)	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.

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Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

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Carbamazepine [^]	5mL venous serum	2-3 working days	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C, or 2 days if stored at room temperature.
Carcinoembryonic Antigen (CEA)	5mL venous serum	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C. Specimens must be tested within 24 hours if unspun.
Chloride	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Non-HDL Cholesterol (calculated)	5mL venous serum or plasma Capillary serum	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C. Capillary specimens must be tested within 6 days of collection and stored at room temperature.
Total Cholesterol	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Cortisol	5mL venous serum	Next working day	Specimens must be spun within 8 hours and tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C. Remove serum from clot or separator gel if testing will be delayed more than 8 hours.
Creatine Kinase	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Creatinine Enzymatic	5mL venous serum or plasma Capillary serum	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.

Here for a Healthier World

Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

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			Capillary specimens must be tested within 6 days of collection and stored at room temperature.
Digoxin Level [^]	5mL venous serum	2-3 working days	Specimens must be tested within 14 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C, or 7 days if stored at room temperature.
Drugs of Abuse Profile [^] (No chain of custody)	5 mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	7 working days	Specimens must be tested within 5 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C
eGFR (calculated)	5mL venous serum 0.8mL Capillary serum	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C. Capillary specimens must be tested within 6 days of collection and stored at room temperature.
Estradiol (E2)	5mL venous serum or Plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Faecal Calprotectin [^]	QFIT sample collection device	5-7 working days	Specimens should be tested within 28 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C, or within 7 days if stored at room temperature.
Faecal Immunochemical Test (QFIT) [^]	QFIT sample collection device	2-3 working days	Specimens should be tested within 28 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C, or within 7 days if stored at room temperature.
Faecal Occult Blood	QFIT	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 30 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 6 days of collection and stored at room temperature.

Here for a Healthier World

Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

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Ferritin	5mL venous serum or Plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Folate / Folic acid	5mL venous serum or Plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Follicle stimulating hormone (FSH)	5mL venous serum or Plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Gamma Glutamyl Transferase (GGT)	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Globulin (Calculated)	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Random Glucose	5mL venous sodium fluoride/potassium oxalate plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Glycated Haemoglobin test (HbA1c)	5mL Whole blood EDTA	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
High Density Lipoprotein (HDL) Cholesterol	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Homeostatic Assay of Insulin Resistance Homa IR (calculated)	5mL venous serum and sodium fluoride/potassium oxalate plasma.	Next working day	Sodium fluoride/potassium oxalate plasma - Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C. Serum - Specimens must be tested within 24 hours of collection and stored at 2-8°C.

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Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

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Immunoglobulin E (IgE) Total	5mL venous serum	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 2 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Insulin	5mL venous serum	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 24 hours of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Intact Parathyroid Hormone	5mL venous serum	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 2 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Iron	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Lactate Dehydrogenase (LDH)	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Lithium	5mL venous serum or plasma (Sodium heparin, K2 EDTA)	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Lipoprotein (a)	5mL venous serum	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Low Density Lipoprotein (LDL) Cholesterol (calculated)	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Luteinizing hormone (LH)	5mL venous serum or Plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Magnesium	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Non High Density Lipoprotein(HDL) Cholesterol	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.

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Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

Analyte	Specimen Type	Typical Turnaround Time	Stability and Storage
(Calculated)			
Phosphorus	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 24 hours if stored at room temperature and 3 days of collection when stored at 2-8°C.
Phenobarbitone [^]	5mL venous serum	1-2 working days	Specimens should be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or if stored at room temperature.
Phenytoin [^]	5mL venous serum	1-2 working days	Specimens must be tested within 4 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or if stored at room temperature.
Protein Electrophoresis (IgG, IgA, IgM) (SPEP) [^]	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	3-6 working days	Specimens must be tested within 5 days if stored at room temperature or 10 days if stored at 2-8°C.
N-Terminal Pro B-type Natriuretic Peptide (NT-proBNP)	5mL venous serum	Next working day	Specimens must be spun within 24 hours and tested within 6 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C. Remove serum from clot or separator gel if testing will be delayed more than 24 hours.
Potassium	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens should be spun within 4 hours of collection. Specimens must be tested within 1 day of collection if spun and stored at 2-8°C. (Centrifugation and storage information must be recorded on PRF including time)
Progesterone	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.

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Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

Analyte	Specimen Type	Typical Turnaround Time	Stability and Storage
Prolactin	5mL venous serum or Plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C, or 24 hours if RT and unspun.
Protein/Creatinine Ratio	Urine (blood not available, request creatinine and protein separately)	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 6 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 1 days of collection and stored at room temperature.
Sex Hormone Binding Globulin	5mL venous serum	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Theophylline [^]	5mL venous serum	2-4 working days	Specimens should be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Total Iron-binding capacity (TIBC) (Calculated)	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next Working Day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
*Total Prostate Specific antigen (TPSa)	5mL venous serum 0.4- 0.6mL Capillary serum	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C. Capillary specimens must be tested within 6 days of collection and stored at room temperature.
Total Protein	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Sodium	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Free T3 (FT3) Free Triiodothyronine	5mL venous serum or Plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 6 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.

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Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

Analyte	Specimen Type	Typical Turnaround Time	Stability and Storage
Free T4 (FT4) Free Thyroxine	5mL venous serum or Plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 6 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Free T3/Free T4 ratio	5mL venous serum or Plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 6 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Anti-Thyroglobulin Antibody	5mL venous serum	1-2 working days	Specimens must be spun within 8 hours and tested within 3 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C. Remove serum from the clot if testing will be delayed for more than 8 hours.
Total T3 Total Tri-iodothyronine	5mL venous serum	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 6 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Total T4 Total Thyroxine	5mL venous serum	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 6 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Testosterone	5mL venous serum or Plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (TSH)	5mL venous serum or Plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Transferrin	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Thyroid Peroxidase (TPO) Antibodies	5mL venous serum	Next working day	Specimens must be spun within 8 hours and be tested within 3 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C. Remove serum from clot or separator gel if testing will be delayed more than 8 hours.

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Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

Analyte	Specimen Type	Typical Turnaround Time	Stability and Storage
Transferrin saturation (calculated)	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Triglycerides	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 3 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Unsaturated Iron-binding capacity (UIBC)	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Urea	5mL venous serum or plasma 0.8mL Capillary Serum	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C. Capillary specimens must be tested within 6 days of collection and stored at room temperature.
Uric acid / Urate	5mL venous serum or plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 3 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Urine Creatinine	Urine MSU	Next working day	Urine Specimens must be tested within 6 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C
Urine microalbumin: Creatinine Ratio	Urine (MSU)	1-2 working days	Specimens must be tested within 6 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Urine Protein	Urine (MSU) 5mL	Next Working Day	Specimens must be tested within 6 days of collection and stored 2-8°C.
Urine Microalbumin	Urine (MSU)	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 6 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.

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Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

Analyte	Specimen Type	Typical Turnaround Time	Stability and Storage
Valproic acid Measurement^	5mL venous serum	2-4 Working Days	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 2 days of collection and stored at room temperature.
Vitamin B6 (Pyridoxine)^	6mL Lavender Vacutainer, EDTA anticoagulant	6-7 working days	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 4 days of collection and stored at room temperature
Vitamin B12	5mL venous serum	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 3 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Vitamin D (25-OH)	5mL venous serum or Plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 3 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Vitamin E (Alpha-Tocopherol)^	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	6-7 working days	Specimens must be tested within 30 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 7 days of collection and stored at room temperature

Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

HAEMATOLOGY

Analyte	Specimen Type	Typical Turnaround Time	Stability and Storage
APTT	5mL Sodium Citrate Plasma	Next working day	Testing must be completed within 4 hours and stored at room temperature.
D-DIMER	5mL Sodium Citrate Plasma	Next working day	Testing must be completed within 24 hours and be stored at room temperature.
ESR	5mL Whole blood EDTA	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 24hrs of collection and stored at 2-8°C. Specimen stored at room temperature must be tested within 6hrs.
Factor VII [^]	4.5mL Light blue Vacutainer, Citrate anticoagulant	5-7 working days	Specimens must be tested within 2 weeks of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Fibrinogen (FIB-C)	5mL Sodium Citrate Plasma	Next working day	Testing must be completed within 24 hours.
Full Blood Count	4mL Whole blood EDTA	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 3 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C. Stability for Reticulocytes is 24 hours.
Blood film Examination	4mL Whole blood EDTA	3 additional working days to FBC.	Slides must be made within 24 hours of collection.
Infectious mononucleosis	5mL EDTA Plasma	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 2 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
International Normalised Ration (INR)	5mL Sodium Citrate Plasma	Next working day	Testing must be completed within 24 hours.
Prothrombin Time (PT)	5mL Sodium Citrate Plasma	Next working day	Testing must be completed within 24 hours.

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Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

Analyte	Specimen Type	Typical Turnaround Time	Stability and Storage
G6PD^	5ml EDTA Plasma	2-4 Working Days	Specimens should be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Haemoglobin Electrophoresis/Sickle Cell Screen^	EDTA	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at room temperature.
Thrombophilia profile ^ (Antithrombin III, Free Protein S, Protein C)	6mL Lavender Vacutainer, EDTA anticoagulant, 5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant 4.5mL Light blue Vacutainer, Citrate anticoagulant	5-6 working days	Citrate specimens should be double spun, separated and frozen within 4-8 hours of sampling. Clinical history must be provided.
Von Willebrand Profile^	4.5mL Light blue Vacutainer, Citrate anticoagulant	6-7 working days	Specimen must be sent to laboratory on same day. Clinical history must be provided. Citrate specimens should be double spun, separated and frozen within 4-8 hours of sampling. Clinical history must be provided

Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

IMMUNOLOGY

Analyte	Specimen Type	Typical Turnaround Time	Stability and Storage
Anti-cardiolipin Abs [^]		3-4 working days	
Alpha 1 Antitrypsin Level [^] (A1AT)	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 3 months of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 7 days of collection and stored at room temperature.
ANCA [^] (Anti neutrophil Cytoplasmic Abs)	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 7 days of collection and stored at room temperature.
Anti-Cyclic Citrullinated Peptide Antibody CCP [^]	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 14 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 8 hours of collection and stored at room temperature.
Anti-DS DNA Antibodies (DNAA) [^] (CTD Screen)	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	3-5 working days	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 8 hours of collection and stored at room temperature.
Anti-Nuclear Antibodies (ANAB) [^] (CTD Screen)	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	3-5 working days	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 8 hours of collection and stored at room temperature.
ENA Screen [^] (<i>Anti-Jo-1 Ab, Anti-Scl-70 Ab, Anti-SSA/RO Ab, Anti-SSB/La Ab, Anti-U1 RNP Ab, Anti-centromere Ab</i>) (CTD Screen)	2 X 5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant 2 X 6mL Lavender Vacutainer, EDTA anticoagulant	3-5 working days	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 8 hours of collection and stored at room temperature.

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Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

Analyte	Specimen Type	Typical Turnaround Time	Stability and Storage
Anti-Endomysial Antibodies (IGA)^	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 7 days of collection and stored at room temperature.
Anti-Gastric Parietal Cell screen^ (GASP)	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 2 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 8 hours of collection and stored at room temperature.
Anti-Intrinsic Factor Antibodies^	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Anti-Liver/Kidney/Microsomal Antibodies^	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 2 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 8 hours if stored at room temperature.
Anti-Mitochondrial Antibodies^	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 2 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 8 hours of collection and stored at room temperature.
Anti-Proteinase 3^	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Anti-Sm Antibodies^	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 14 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 8 hours of collection and stored at room temperature.
Anti-Smooth Muscle Antibodies^	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 2 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 8 hours of collection and stored at room temperature.

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Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

Analyte	Specimen Type	Typical Turnaround Time	Stability and Storage
A.S.O.T.^	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 8 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Anti-Tissue Transglutaminase Antibodies (IgA)^ (Coeliac Profile)	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 14 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 8 hours of collection and stored at room temperature.
Anti-Gliadin TTG IgG/IgA^ (Coeliac Profile)	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 14 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 8 hours of collection and stored at room temperature.
Anti-TSH Receptor Antibodies^	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 5 days of collection stored at 2-8°C.
CD3/CD4/CD8^	6mL Lavender Vacutainer, EDTA anticoagulant.	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 8 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 2 days of collection and stored at room temperature.
Endomysial ABS.(EMA)^	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 7 days of collection and stored at room temperature.
Haemochromatosis Genetic Screen^	6 mL Lavender Vacutainer, EDTA anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 2 weeks of collection and stored at room temperature.
HLA B27 Genotype^	6 mL Lavender Vacutainer, EDTA anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 2 weeks and stored at room temperature.
IGF-1 (Somatomedin)^	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be received at the laboratory on the same day as collection.

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Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

Analyte	Specimen Type	Typical Turnaround Time	Stability and Storage
Immunoglobulin Profile [IgA, IgG, IgM] ^	5 mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	3 working days	Specimens must be tested within 30 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C and 7 days if stored at room temperature.
Immunoglobulin IgA^	5 mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	3 working days	Specimens must be tested within 30 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C and 7 days if stored at room temperature.
Immunoglobulin IgG^	5 mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	3 working days	Specimens must be tested within 30 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C and 7 days if stored at room temperature.
Immunoglobulin IgM^	5 mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	3 working days	Specimens must be tested within 30 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C and 7 days if stored at room temperature.
Leukocyte Antibody Detection^	Female: One 10ml serum separator tube (gel barrier), from recipient. Separate serum from cells, within 2 hours of collection by centrifugation. Male 30/40 ml Heparin sample	4-6 Working days	Stability after separation from cells: Ambient: 72 Hours; Refrigerated: 1 week.
Lupus Screen^	4.5mL Light blue Vacutainer, Citrate anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Samples should be double spun and separated and frozen within 4-8 hours of sample taking, if a delay is expected with transportation to the laboratory, samples must be transported as frozen.
Phospholipid ABS^	5mL venous serum	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 14 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 8 hours of collection and stored at room temperature.

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Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

Analyte	Specimen Type	Typical Turnaround Time	Stability and Storage
Rheumatoid Factor	5mL venous serum	Next working day	Specimens must be tested within 22 hours of collection if at room temperature or 2-8°C. If this is not possible samples may be frozen to extend stability.
Serum Free Light Chains [K/L RATIO]^	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant.	2-5 working days	Specimens must be tested within 21 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C.
Serum Protein Electrophoresis^		2-5 working days	Specimens must be tested within 10 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 5 days of collection if stored at room temperature.
Total IgE / RAST^	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-4 working day	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 7 days of collection and stored at room temperature. Note: Please specify which allergens are required on the PRF.
Specific IgE^: (i.e. Dog dander, Cat dander, Grass pollen, House dust mite, Tree pollen Mix 8)	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 7 days of collection and stored at room temperature. Note: Please specify which allergens are required on the PRF.
Specific IgE: ^ (i.e., Egg, Egg white, Food mix 15, Food mix 5, Milk, Nut mix, Peanut, Wheat)	5mL Gold Vacutainer, SST/Gel anticoagulant	2-4 working days	Specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection and stored at 2-8°C or within 7 days of collection and stored at room temperature. Note: Please specify which allergens are required on the PRF

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Sample Collection Guidance for Approved Services

Analyte	Specimen Type	Typical Turnaround Time	Stability and Storage
TH1/TH2 Intracellular Cytokine Ratio^	40mL Heparin blood sample	5-7 working days	Ambient must be in USA within 24 hrs same day dispatch. Inform Enfer Medical prior to sending samples.

Note: Tests denoted with ^ are carried out at an approved referral laboratory.

Note: Tests denoted with * are sex specific tests, please supply Sex at Birth information upon submission.