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OMRF CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY LAB

PROPER SPECIMEN COLLECTION & HANDLING

To assure the optimal conditions for testing patient sera, the following instructions should be followed:

1. Specimen tubes should be labeled with the patient's name, identification number if applicable, date of birth and the date of collection.

2. A requisition must be included, completed with the patient's name, identification number, date of birth, sex, requesting physician and address, billing address (or copy of insurance card), and date of collection.

SAMPLE REQUIREMENTS:

All of the tests performed in this laboratory are optimized for human sera, red stopper tubes or (SST) serum separator tubes may be used. Red stopper (SST) tubes, containing a silicone additive are NOT to be used in the blood collection for CRYOGLOBULINS.

While it is possible to use other fluids such as plasma or synovial fluid, the results may be of questionable use. Please indicate on the requisition if specimen is not serum.

LUPUS SCREEN (Reichlin Profile) - **Minimum** is 2 ml serum or 2 red stopper tubes

OTHER TESTS - **Minimum** requirement is 1.0 ml serum per individual tests.

CH-50 – 1.0 ml serum, delivered on ice if within four hours of being drawn, or frozen if over four hours.

CRYOGLOBULIN - **Minimum** is 2 ml serum. Please do not use serum separator tubes (SST) they can interfere with the quantification process.

Two red stopper (serum) tubes are preferred. After blood is collected, red stopper tubes must be kept at 37ºC until blood has clotted in the tubes. Centrifuge and remove the serum, refrigerate until transported to our lab. Specimen can be sent at ambient temperature.

MYOSITIS PROFILE - **Minimum** requirement is 2 ml serum

OTHER TESTS - **Minimum** requirement is 1.0 ml serum per individual test

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HANDLING OF SPECIMENS:

Specimens may be delivered in person or sent through the mail if properly packaged for mailing. No specimen should be mailed to OMRF for delivery on the weekend. All samples may be sent at ambient temperature, except for CH-50 samples. If the samples for CRYOGLOBULIN or CH-50 are not properly collected or transported, the results could be inaccurate.

Please check postal regulations for proper transport of diagnostic specimens. With the exception of CH-50 specimens, all samples may be sent at ambient temperature. If the samples for CRYGLOBULIN or CH-50 tests are not properly collected and transported, the results are not useful.

Diagnostic specimens that are transported to our laboratory **must be packaged in compliance according to IATA Federal guidelines packing instruction 650.** The following link will provide your facility with the current shipping information and requirements.

http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/standards/index.htm

Please read and follow the regulations and instructions carefully. The guidelines for the packing system consist of the following layers:

1) **Primary**- A specimen leak proof biohazard specimen bag with absorbent material.

2) **Secondary**- Styrofoam insert container

3) **Outer**- Cardboard container with a diagnostic specimen label adhered to the back of the box

Specimens can be mailed by FedEx, UPS, or regular mail, following IATA packing regulations. Upon request, we will supply mailing containers for your convenience. Many of our clients ship samples to us without difficulty. Please call if we can assist you at (405) 271-7771 OMRF Clinical Immunology Lab.

For our local clients who would like the convenience of a courier service, we recommend Sooner Courier at (405) 600-7997. They are conveniently located in Oklahoma City to pick up and deliver your samples quickly and efficiently at no charge.

We also offer venipuncture services at our facility for those of you not able to offer this service in your office. Please call for an appointment at (405) 271-7771.

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REPORTS

Although some preliminary test results may be completed within 5 working days, please allow 7-10 working days for select tests and lupus profiles to be completed. Results are mailed out once per week. Verbal results and/or faxed results are available prior to the mailing of reports if necessary or specifically requested.

Myositis test results normally take 6-8 weeks to be completed; however, additional time may be needed for re-testing due to the complexity of the testing as well as to our dedication to giving the most accurate results possible. If additional re-testing is necessary a preliminary report may be issued.