**OMRF CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY LAB**

 *Updated 12/11/2020*

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.

1. 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.

**SPECIMEN 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 *CRYOGLOBULIN*.** For reference labs, hospitals and clinics-Please follow your sample processing procedures applicable for our testing menu. For those who do not have written procedures-all serum samples may be stored at refrigerator or freezer temperatures.

 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.**

 \*Fasting sample is not required

 \**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.

Specimens for the Reichlin Profile and other individual tests in the Clinical Immunology Lab may be sent in an SST or poured off into a specimen transport tube. Specimen may be sent ambient, refrigerated, or frozen temperature.

 *\* CRYOGLOBULIN* - **Minimum** is 2 ml serum. Please do not use serum separator tubes (SST) they can interfere with the quantification process. **If the patient has a history of hyperlipidemia, a fasting sample is preferred.**

Processing for a ***CRYOGLOBULIN***-Two red stopper (serum) tubes (NO SST TUBES). After blood is collected, red stopper tubes must be kept at 37ºC until blood has clotted in the tubes. Centrifuge, remove the serum and transfer to a specimen transport tube, Specimen may be sent at ambient, refrigerated, or frozen temperature.

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

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

Specimen may be sent in SST or serum transport tube at ambient, refrigerated, or frozen temperature.

**HANDLING OF SPECIMENS:**

Specimens may be delivered in person-due to **COVID-19**-please call the laboratory for instructions at (405) 271-7771. The specimen may be 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. If the samples are for CRYOGLOBULIN and not properly collected and processed, the results may be inaccurate.

Please check postal regulations for proper transport of diagnostic specimens. All samples may be sent at ambient temperature.

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 or for Myositis testing inquiries (405) 271-7397.

For our local clients who would like the convenience of a courier service, we recommend Expedited Courier at (405) 603-8086. Please notify the courier to pick up your sample to deliver to the OMRF Clinical Immunology Laboratory located within the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. We are located at 825 NE 13th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Our laboratory number is (405) 271-7771. Our operating hours are 8:30 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Expedited Courier is 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.

# REPORTS

Although some preliminary test results may be completed within 2-3 working days, please allow 5-7 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.