



MEMORANDUM

To: All OSF System Laboratory Customer/Clients
From: OSF System Laboratory
Subject: Centrifugation of Clinical Samples and Instructions for Gold and Mint Green Tubes
Date: 4/22/2016

Through recent problem reports logged by the laboratory chemistry and processing departments, we are receiving an increased number of gold top and mint green top sample tubes that are being sent uncentrifuged. **Per the tube package insert, centrifugation needs to occur ASAP after the draw, but not to exceed 2 hours.** If this 2 hour timeframe is exceeded, test results can be inaccurate and requiring sample rejection as to avoid adverse patient impact.

Sending samples uncentrifuged is a risky process because couriers often have multiple stops in addition to the time it takes for the sample to be received in the OSF processing department and ultimately centrifuged. **As a corrective action to ensure test results of the highest integrity and to avoid sample rejections and impact to the patient, please make every attempt to centrifuge every gold and mint green tube samples prior to courier shipment.** Then, via internal risk assessment activities, we will continue to monitor and determine if a more stringent corrective action is necessary to avoid rejections.

Per instructions from the manufacturer, submitting facilities should follow these guidelines to ensure proper gel barrier formation between the red cells and serum/plasma and ensure that samples are properly prepared for laboratory testing.

(1) Requirements for gold top tubes:

- a. After collection, **gently invert 5 times**, which facilitates even clot activation.
- b. **Allow sample to clot for a minimum of 30 minutes** while sample in upright position
- c. If using a horizontal, swing-bucket centrifuge, the recommended spin time is 10 minutes. With a fixed-angle centrifuge (many smaller tabletop centrifuges are fixed-angle), the recommended spin time is 15 minutes.

(2) Requirements for mint green lithium heparin tubes:

- a. After collection, **gently invert 8-10 times**. This allows for the complete mixing with heparin and helps prevent the formation of fibrin.
- b. **Mint green top tubes do not require a "sit phase"**. Proceed to centrifugation.
- c. If using a horizontal, swing-bucket centrifuge, the recommended spin time is 10 minutes. With a fixed-angle centrifuge (many smaller tabletop centrifuges are fixed-angle), the recommended spin time is 15 minutes.

If you have any questions, please contact OSF System Lab at:

OSFSystemLabNotifications@osfhealthcare.org