



Unacceptable Specimens

The laboratory will refuse any routine specimens (blood, random urine or feces) not meeting appropriate criteria. Specimens that are deemed irretrievable (bone marrow, biopsy, fluids, and blood gases for example) will be accepted upon filling out the "Incorrectly Labeled Form" by the person accepting responsibility for that specimen. Any exceptions to the policy will require approval by a Laboratory Manager or designee, the Laboratory Administrative Director or Pathologist.

Routine Specimens will not be accepted for analysis for the following:

- Unlabeled
- Mislabeled (requisition does not match specimen label)
- Insufficient quantity of specimen for testing
- Does not meet department specific criteria (see below)
- Not collected in appropriate tube

Blood Bank:

- Tube is not initialed and the phlebotomist/nurse/physician cannot be identified
*Acceptable if phlebotomist is listed under "Collected By"
- The specimen does not have the 2 patient identifiers on the tube
- The specimen was not drawn by CNE

Chemistry/ Immunology:

- Grossly Hemolyzed
- Lithium heparin (mint green top) not spun and separated within 2 hours of collection
- Non-fasting, when testing requires fasting specimen
- Lavender top tube for BNP is greater than 8 hours old/ unspun
- Blood Gas specimen is clotted or not placed on ice
- Ammonia specimens not placed on ice
- Lactic Acid specimens not drawn per Laboratory procedure and/or not placed on ice

Hematology/Coagulation:

- Lavender or blue top tube is clotted
- Lavender top is less than 1 ml
- Lavender microtainer is overfilled or underfilled
- Hemolyzed for APTT or PT testing (blue top tube)
- Lavender top tube specimen is greater than 24 hours old
- Clotted specimens for any body fluid cell count / can perform crystal analysis

Microbiology:

- Grossly contaminated
- Submitted in non-sterile containers

Urinalysis:

- Received in an improper container (medicine, shampoo, vitamin bottles; etc.)
- Specimen has not been refrigerated for more than 2 hours
- Specimen has been refrigerated for more than 4 hours

Send Out:

- Preservatives have not been added as required for certain testing
- Special instructions have not been followed for the testing

Cytology/Histology:

See section: "Specimen Collection Guidelines"