



Specimen Stability Guide (Chemistry and Immunology)

This guide to sample stabilities can be used to determine if a test can be added to previously collected blood.

This applies to correctly stored and separated serum/plasma samples only and not to whole blood.

Samples are discarded 6 -7 days after completion of testing.

Analyte		Days of Storage (serum / plasma @ 4°C)						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
BNP		4 hours @ RT						
B12, Folate								
TNI								
Testosterone								
Thyroid Function Tests	TSH							
	fT4, fT3							
Fertility Hormones	Oestradiol							
	LH							
	Prolactin							
	FSH, Progesterone							
Phosphate								
LDH								
Liver Function Tests	Bilirubin, Conj Bili	8 Hours						
	Other LFT's and Amylase							
Renal Function Tests	Potassium	Must be separated from red cells by gel within 6 hours, uncontaminated by red cells and not haemolysed						
	Sodium, Creatinine, urate, urea, Cl							
Glucose	Yellow, red or green top	Only if separated within 2 hours						
	Grey top tube							
Other Biochemistry								
Iron studies	Lithium CRP							
Lipids	Digoxin Ck							
Cortisol	HCG PSA							
Calcium	Mg HbA1c							
Electrophoresis	Immunoglobulins							
Infectious								
Hep A,B,C, HIV, Rubella, Syphilis, CMV, Toxo, EBV								
Immunology								
Autoantibodies, ANA, ENA, H. Pylori, RhF, Coeliac, Thyroid Ab, Anti CCP								
Referred Tests		For tests referred to CHL please check with laboratory or CHL Test Manager						

	Not suitable for Testing		See Notes		Suitable for testing
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Ref: World Health Organization; Use of anticoagulants in diagnostic laboratory investigations. WHO/DIL/LAB/99.1 Rev. 2 2002