

Specimen Integrity

Laboratory test results are dependent on the quality of the specimen submitted. It is important that all specimens and requisitions be properly labeled with the name of the patient, collection date, and the origin (source) of the specimen, when applicable.

If there is any doubt, question, or concern regarding the type of specimen that should be collected, it is imperative that you call St. Francis Lab Services at 318-966-5221 or 318-966-5222 to clarify the order and specimen requirements prior to collection.

Please utilize your St. Francis Lab Services requisition to request procedures. Your St. Francis Lab Services Requisition insures that test results are forwarded to your office. Turnaround time (TAT) may be jeopardized if the St. Francis Lab Services requisition is not utilized.

Centrifugation:

If you have a centrifuge at your site, serum specimens (serum gel tubes) can be centrifuged using the following procedure:

- Allow tube to clot at ambient temperature for 20 to 30 minutes.
- Always balance the centrifuge by placing tubes of equal volume in opposite wells.
- Spin tubes for 10 minutes.

Specimen Labeling:

Please label each specimen/tube with the following information:

- Patient's full name
- Patient's date of birth
- Date and time of collection
- Initials of collector
- Source (as applicable)

Note: Unlabeled specimens that are re-collectable will be rejected.