

Performing Initial Evaluation of Patient Sample

SCHEDULE 5: Transfusion Sample Stability

The table below lists the stability limits for each test according to performance specifications of the method. Stability is measured from collection time to receipt at the examination site.

- **Winter Transport:**
 - Do not ship whole blood samples by ground at temperatures below -15 °C.
 - Centrifuge and ship serum/plasma if able
 - Or hold and batch samples until weather warms up.
 - Ship by air if unable to hold samples and stability at risk.
 - Delay collection of whole blood samples on outpatients. Ask patient to return when weather warms up.



Transfusion Medicine Test	Sample Type	Maximum time to perform testing (Sample Suitability and storage Temp.)		
		Room Temp	1–10 °C	Instructions
ABO/Rh Group	E.D.T.A. Whole blood	MAX. 24 hours	14 days	Separate samples to ship to testing facility only in extreme winter conditions.
	non-additive Red Top tube	MAX. 24 hours	14 days	
Antibody Screen	E.D.T.A. Whole blood OR non additive Red Top tube.	MAX. 24 hours	48 hours	Separate samples to ship to testing facility only in extreme winter conditions.
Antibody Identification	E.D.T.A. Whole blood OR non additive Red Top tube.	ASAP – MAX. 24 hours	48 hours	Fly samples if the delay to get the Ab Investigation to testing facility is greater than 48 hours. Separate samples to ship to testing facility only in extreme winter conditions.
Cold Agglutinin	non-additive Red Top tube, unspun	N/A	N/A	Maintain sample at 37°C, deliver to laboratory immediately. If testing is done at referral lab outside the facility then separate the serum after clotting the sample and send RBC and serum to referral lab.
Cord Blood	Cord Blood in E.D.T.A. Tube	ASAP – MAX. 24 hours		
DAT	E.D.T.A. Whole blood	MAX. 24 hours	14 days	
Fetal Bleed Screen	E.D.T.A. Whole blood	ASAP	48 hours	RhIG administration should be done with in 72 hours therefore test should be done ASAP Post-Partum.



Transfusion Medicine Test	Sample Type	Maximum time to perform testing (Sample Suitability and storage Temp.)		
		Room Temp	1–10 °C	Instructions
Kleihauer Betke Test	E.D.T.A. Whole blood	ASAP	24 hours	
RhIG Eligibility	E.D.T.A. Whole blood	ASAP	48 hours	RhIG administration should be done within 72 hours therefore test should be done ASAP Post-Partum.
Transfusion Reaction	E.D.T.A. Whole blood	ASAP	ASAP	Transfusion Reaction screening should be done at testing facility. Extended testing can be sent for further testing, if required. Separate samples to ship to testing facility only in extreme winter conditions.

