



## NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE

---

### Specimen and Requisition Requirements

All specimens received in the Laboratory must be clearly labeled with:

- the patient's first and last name,
- HCN
- Date of Birth
- Collector's initials
- Date of collection
- Time of Collection
- Specimens must be accompanied by a completed requisition, including patient's first and last name, Date of birth, Health card number as well as physician name, clinical notes, the collection date, collection time and collector's name, as well as the Patient Information Form. (NNZ-F-LS-0023)

Ensure that specimens are not leaking and are delivered to the Laboratory within **1.5 hours**. Some specimens specify quicker delivery time required. Please note the date and time of last dose if drug testing is requested.

**Refer to pages 36 to 40 for the collection requirements for Transfusion Medicine specimens.**

### Tests Not in Catalogue

Please view Capital Health Test Catalogue on NSH Intranet or ICL catalogue for tests not performed at Colchester East Hants Health Centre. Contact Colchester East Hants Health Centre Collection Service at **902-898-2803** for information on tests not found in these catalogues.

Information for sample type and collection instructions of microbiology specimens not found in this catalogue may be found in the provincial microbiology user's manual.

### Collection, Handling and Transport Instructions

The specimens need to be properly collected, processed, packaged and transported in accordance with laboratory policies and procedures, in a timely manner and under conditions that will not compromise either the integrity of the specimen or patient confidentiality. Transportation must be compliant with the Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) Act. Please ensure no patient information is visible when packaging specimens to be transported to the laboratory.

It is essential that an adequate volume/ quantity of specimen be submitted for analysis. Minimum volume / quantity information is provided in each catalogue listing whenever applicable.

NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE

Hemolyzed or lipemic specimens may alter certain test results and may be rejected.

All blood and urine specimens being dropped off must follow the guidelines of the independent phlebotomist agreement (<http://www.nshealth.ca/about-us/doing-business-us/independent-phlebotomy>).

**Refer to pages 41 to 51 for the collection requirements for Microbiology Specimens**

For Microbiology tests not found in this manual please view Provincial Microbiology User's Manual PPHLN – M0008-02

---

**24 Hour Urine Calcium**

Mnemonic	<b>U24CA</b>
Specimen	<b>Urine</b>
Collection Tube	<b>24 Hour Urine Container with 25mL 6N HCL additive</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory</b>

---

**24 Hour Calcium Creatinine Plus Ratio**

Mnemonic	<b>U24CACREAT</b>
Specimen	<b>Urine</b>
Collection Tube	<b>24 Hour Urine Container with 25mL 6N HCL additive</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory</b>

---

**24 Hour Urine Chloride**

Mnemonic	<b>U24CL</b>
Specimen	<b>Urine</b>
Collection Tube	<b>24 Hour Urine Container – No Preservative</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory</b>

---

**24 Hour Urine Creatinine**

Mnemonic	<b>U24CREAT</b>
Specimen	<b>Urine</b>
Collection Tube	<b>24 Hour Urine Container – No Preservative recommended or 25mL 6N HCL additive is acceptable</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory</b>

---

**24 Hour Urine Magnesium**

Mnemonic	<b>U24MG</b>
Specimen	<b>Urine</b>

**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

Collection Tube	<b>24 Hour Urine Container with 25mL 6N HCL additive</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory</b>

---

**24 Hour Urine Microalbumin**

Mnemonic	<b>U24MALB</b>
Specimen	<b>Urine</b>
Collection Tube	<b>24 Hour Urine Container – No Preservative</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory</b>

---

**24 Hour Urine Osmolality**

Mnemonic	<b>U24OSMO</b>
Specimen	<b>Urine</b>
Collection Tube	<b>24 Hour Urine Container – No Preservative</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory</b>

---

**24 Hour Urine pH**

Mnemonic	<b>U24PH</b>
Specimen	<b>Urine</b>
Collection Tube	<b>24 Hour Urine Container</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory</b>

---

**24 Hour Urine Potassium**

Mnemonic	<b>U24K</b>
Specimen	<b>Urine</b>
Collection Tube	<b>24 Hour Urine Container – No Preservative</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory</b>

---

**24 Hour Urine Total Protein**

Mnemonic	<b>U24TP</b>
----------	--------------

**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

Specimen	<b>Urine</b>
Collection Tube	<b>24 Hour Urine Container – No Preservative</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory</b>

---

**24 Hour Urine Urea**

Mnemonic	<b>U24UREA</b>
Specimen	<b>Urine</b>
Collection Tube	<b>24 Hour Urine Container – No Preservative</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory</b>

---

**24 Hour Urine Uric Acid**

Mnemonic	<b>U2URIC</b>
Specimen	<b>Urine</b>
Collection Tube	<b>24 Hour Urine Container with 10mL of 5% NaOH additive</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory</b>

---

**24 Hour Urine Sodium**

Mnemonic	<b>U24NA</b>
Specimen	<b>Urine</b>
Collection Tube	<b>24 Hour Urine Container – No Preservative</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory</b>

---

**Acetaminophen (Tylenol)**

Mnemonic	<b>ACET</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma or Serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 mL sodium heparin (dark green) or 4 mL no additive (red)</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours</b>

---

NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE

### Albumin

Mnemonic	<b>ALB</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours</b>

---

### Albumin/Creatinine Ratio Urine

Mnemonic	<b>U ACR</b>
Specimen	<b>Urine</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Sterile urine container &gt;3 mL</b>

---

### Alcohol (Ethanol)

Mnemonic	<b>ETOH</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma or Serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 mL sodium heparin (dark green) or 4 mL no additive (red)</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Cannot be added on if alcohol swab is used. Must be spun within 2 hours</b>

---

### Alkaline Phosphatase

Mnemonic	<b>ALK</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours</b>

---

### Alanine Amino Transferase

Mnemonic	<b>ALT</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours</b>

---

### **Amylase**

Mnemonic	<b>AMY</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours</b>

---

### **Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time**

Mnemonic	<b>PTT</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>2.7 mL 3.2% sodium citrate (light blue)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Sample must be filled to line; inadequate volume will result in specimen rejection.</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Spin heparinized patients within one hour of collection and non-heparinized within 4 hours of collection.</b>

---

### **Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time DADE – Colchester Only**

Mnemonic	<b>PTT</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>2 x 2.7 mL 3.2% sodium citrate (light blue)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Sample must be filled to line; inadequate volume will result in specimen rejection. Dade test not orderable in Meditech, please indicate on requisition "Dade."</b>

---

### **Arterial Cord Blood Gas**

Mnemonic	<b>ACOBG</b>
Specimen	<b>Cord Blood</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Syringe</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Transport at room temperature</b>
Stability	<b>Optimal analysis is within 30 minutes of collection, to a maximum of 60 minutes.</b>
Lab Use Only	<b>Please use clot catcher when running.</b>

---

### Arterial Blood Gas

Mnemonic	<b>ABG</b>
Specimen	<b>Arterial sample</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Syringe</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Transport at room temperature</b>
Stability	<b>Optimal analysis is within 30 minutes of collection, to a maximum of 60 minutes</b>

---

### Aspartate Amino Transferase

Mnemonic	<b>AST</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)</b>
For Lab Use only	<b>must be spun within 2 hours</b>

---

### Bilirubin, Direct

Mnemonic	<b>BILD</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours</b>
Stability	<b>Protect from light</b>

---

### Bilirubin, Total

Mnemonic	<b>BILT</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours</b>
Stability	<b>Protect from light</b>

---

### Body Fluids – Albumin

Mnemonic	<b>BFALB</b>
Specimen	<b>Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid</b>



**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

Collection Tube	<b>4 mL sodium heparin (dark green)</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection</b>

---

**Body Fluids – ALT**

Mnemonic	<b>BFALT</b>
Specimen	<b>Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 mL sodium heparin (dark green)</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection</b>

---

**Body Fluids – Amylase**

Mnemonic	<b>BFAMY</b>
Specimen	<b>Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 mL sodium heparin (dark green)</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection.</b>

---

**Body Fluids – Cell Count/Differential**

Mnemonic	<b>BFCC</b>
Specimen	<b>Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid, Synovial fluid</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 or 4ml EDTA (mauve)</b>
Special Instructions use only:	<b>Do not send in pneumatic tube system. Deliver ASAP to the Lab. For Lab Must be tested within 2 hours of collection to maintain cell integrity, if delayed keep at 2-8°C</b>

---

**Body Fluids – Cholesterol**

Mnemonic	<b>BFCHOL</b>
Specimen	<b>Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 mL sodium heparin (dark green)</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection.</b>

---

### Body Fluids – Creatinine

Mnemonic	<b>BFCREAT</b>
Specimen	<b>Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 mL sodium heparin (dark green)</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection.</b>

---

### Body Fluids – Crystal

Mnemonic	<b>BFCRYS</b>
Specimen	<b>Synovial fluid</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 mL sodium heparin (dark green)</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Do not Spin.</b>

---

### Body Fluids – Glucose

Mnemonic	<b>BFGLU</b>
Specimen	<b>Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 mL sodium heparin (dark green)</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection.</b>

---

### Body Fluids – LDH

Mnemonic	<b>BFLDH</b>
Specimen	<b>Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 mL sodium heparin (dark green)</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection.</b>

---

### Body Fluids – pH

Mnemonic	<b>BFPH</b>
Specimen	<b>Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid, Synovial fluid</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Lithium Heparin Syringe – transport on ice</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Optimal analysis is within 60 minutes of collection, acceptable up to 4 hours refrigerated (4°C). Minimum volume 1.0 mL sample. Please use clot catcher when running.</b>

### Body Fluids – Potassium

Mnemonic	<b>BFK</b>
Specimen	<b>Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 mL sodium heparin (dark green)</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection.</b>

---

### Body Fluids – Sodium

Mnemonic	<b>BFNA</b>
Specimen	<b>Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 mL sodium heparin (dark green)</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection.</b>

---

### Body Fluids – Total Bilirubin

Mnemonic	<b>BFBILT</b>
Specimen	<b>Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 mL sodium heparin (dark green)</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection.</b>

---

### Body Fluids – Total Protein

Mnemonic	<b>BFTP</b>
Specimen	<b>Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 mL sodium heparin (dark green)</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection.</b>

---

### Body Fluids – Triglyceride

Mnemonic	<b>BFTRIG</b>
Specimen	<b>Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection.</b>

### Body Fluids – Urea

Mnemonic	<b>BFUREA</b>
Specimen	<b>Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 mL sodium heparin (dark green)</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection.</b>

---

### Body Fluids – Uric Acid

Mnemonic	<b>BFURIC</b>
Specimen	<b>Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 mL sodium heparin (dark green)</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection.</b>

---

### Brain Natriuretic Peptide

Mnemonic	<b>PROBNP-NT</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection.</b>

---

### Ca125

Mnemonic	<b>CA-125</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3.5 mL SST (gold) or 4 mL no additive (red)</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours, allow to clot for one hour.</b>

---

### Calcium, Total

Mnemonic	<b>CA</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)</b>
For Lab Use only:	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection.</b>

### **Calcium, Random (Urine)**

Mnemonic	<b>UCAR</b>
Specimen	<b>Urine</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Sterile urine container</b>

---

### **Calcium Creatinine Ratio**

Mnemonic	<b>UCA-CREAR</b>
Specimen	<b>Urine</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Sterile urine container</b>
Special Instructions	<b>N/A</b>

---

### **Capillary Blood Gas**

Mnemonic	<b>CBG</b>
Specimen	<b>Capillary x 2</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Heparin coated capillary tube (70uL)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Must be well mixed by flea and magnet. Transport at room temperature</b>
Stability	<b>Sample must be run within 15 minutes of collection. Cancel specimen if &gt; 15 minutes old.</b>

---

### **Carbamazepine**

Mnemonic	<b>CARB</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 mL no additive (red), do not use gel separators</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Date and time of last dose required</b>
For Lab Use Only	<b>Allow to clot for one hour</b>

---

### **Chloride, Random (Urine)**

Mnemonic	<b>UCLR</b>
Specimen	<b>Urine</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Sterile urine container</b>

### **Complete Blood Count**

Mnemonic	<b>CBC</b>
Specimen	<b>Whole Blood</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 ml EDTA (mauve) or 3 ml EDTA (mauve)</b>

### **Carcinoembryonic Antigen**

Mnemonic	<b>CEA</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3.5 ml gold stoppered serum separator tube</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Allow to clot for one hour</b>

### **Cholesterol Level**

Mnemonic	<b>CHOL</b>
	<b>Order LIPID if TRIG, LDL, HDL are ordered as well</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection, fast for 12 hours.</b>

### **Creatine Phosphokinase**

Mnemonic	<b>CK</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection.</b>

### **Cortisol – 30 Minutes**

Mnemonic	<b>CORT30MIN</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum SST</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3.5 ml gold stoppered serum separator tube or 4 mL no additive (red)</b>

**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

Special Instructions      **Sample drawn 30 minutes post dose.**

---

**Cortisol – 60 minutes**

Mnemonic	<b>CORT60MIN</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum SST</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3.5 ml gold stoppered serum separator tube or 4 mL no additive (red)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Sample drawn 60 minutes post dose.</b>

---

**Cortisol - AM**

Mnemonic	<b>CORTAM</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum SST</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3.5 ml gold stoppered serum separator tube or 4 mL no additive (red)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Collect sample between 0700-0900</b>

---

**Cortisol - PM**

Mnemonic	<b>CORTPM</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum SST</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3.5 ml gold stoppered serum separator tube or 4 mL no additive (red)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Collect sample between 1500-1700</b>

---

**Cortisol DST**

Mnemonic	<b>CORTDST</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum SST</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3.5 ml gold stoppered serum separator or 4 mL no additive (red)</b>

---

**Cortisol - Random**

Mnemonic	<b>CORT</b>
----------	-------------

**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

Specimen	<b>Serum SST</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3.5 ml gold stoppered serum separator tube or 4 mL no additive (red)</b>

---

**Creatinine**

Mnemonic	<b>EGFR ordered on outpatients, CREAT ordered on inpatients.</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection</b>

---

**Creatinine (Urine)**

Mnemonic	<b>UCREATR</b>
Specimen	<b>Urine</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Sterile urine container</b>

---

**C-Reactive Protein**

Mnemonic	<b>HS-CRP</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection</b>

---

**Cerebrospinal Fluid – Total Protein**

Mnemonic	<b>CSFTP</b>
Specimen	<b>Cerebrospinal Fluid</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Sterile CSF Containers</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Tube #2 if it is a bleed, do not send in pneumatic tube system.</b>
Stability	<b>Test within 30 minutes of collection</b>

---

**Cerebrospinal Fluid – Glucose**

Mnemonic	<b>CSFGLU</b>
Specimen	<b>Cerebrospinal Fluid</b>



**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

Collection Tube	<b>Sterile CSF Containers</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Tube #1 if it is an infection, do not send in pneumatic tube system</b>
Stability	<b>Test within 30 minutes of collection</b>

---

**Cerebrospinal Fluid – Cell Count**

Mnemonic	<b>CSFCC</b>
Specimen	<b>Cerebrospinal Fluid</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Sterile CSF Containers</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Tube #1 and #4 if it is a bleed. Tube #2 if it is an infection, do not send in pneumatic tube system.</b>
Stability	<b>Test within 30 minutes of collection</b>

---

**D-Dimer Quantitative**

Mnemonic	<b>DDQUAN</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>2.7 ml 3.2% sodium citrate (blue)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Tube needs to be filled to the line and tested within 4 hours of collection</b>

---

**Digoxin**

Mnemonic	<b>DIG</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma or serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 ml lithium Heparin (light green) or 4 mL no additive (red)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Indicate time of last dose.</b>

---

**Dilantin (Phenytoin)**

Mnemonic	<b>PHNY</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma or Serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 mL no additive (red) or 4 mL sodium heparin (dark green) Do not use gel separators.</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Last dose needs to be noted in Meditech with date and time.</b>

### Electrolytes (Sodium, Potassium & Chloride)

Mnemonic	<b>LYTES</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection</b>

---

### Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate

Mnemonic	<b>ESR</b>
Specimen	<b>Whole Blood</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 mL EDTA (mauve)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>At least 2.5ml of specimen is required for testing.</b>

---

### Estradiol

Mnemonic	<b>EST</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum SST</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3.5 mL serum separator tube (gold)</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Allow to clot for 1 hour.</b>

---

### Ferritin

Mnemonic	<b>FER</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum SST</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3.5 mL serum separator tube (gold), or 4 mL no additive (red)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Allow to clot for 1 hour.</b>

---

### Fetal Fibronectin

Mnemonic	<b>FFIBR</b>
Specimen	<b>Cervicovaginal swab</b>
Collection Tube	<b>200 µL of sample required in 1 mL extraction buffer tube.</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Do not send in pneumatic tube system.</b>

### Fibrinogen Screen

Mnemonic	<b>FIB</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>2.7 ml 3.2% sodium citrate (blue)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Tube must be filled to the line.</b>

---

### Folate

Mnemonic	<b>FOL</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum SST</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3.5 mL serum separator tube (gold)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Folate is light sensitive, limit specimen exposure to light prior to testing.</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Allow to clot for 1 hour.</b>

---

### Free T3

Mnemonic	<b>FT3</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum SST</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3.5 mL serum separator tube (gold)</b>
For Lab Use Only	<b>Allow to clot for 1 hour</b>

---

### Free T4

Mnemonic	<b>FT4</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum SST</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3.5 mL serum separator tube (gold)</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Allow to clot for 1 hour</b>

---

### Follicle-Stimulating Hormone

Mnemonic	<b>FSH</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum SST</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3.5 mL serum separator tube (gold)</b>

**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

For Lab use only

**Allow to clot for 1 hour.**

### **Gamma-Glutamyl Transferase**

Mnemonic	<b>GGT</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)</b>

### **Gentamicin Post**

Mnemonic	<b>GENTPOST</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 ml no additive (red), do not use gel separator tubes</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Collect sample 30 minutes after dosage, do not use gel separators</b>

### **Gentamicin Pre**

Mnemonic	<b>GENTPRE</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 ml no additive (red), do not use gel separator tubes</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Collect sample 30 minutes prior to dosage, do not use gel separators</b>

### **Gentamicin Random**

Mnemonic	<b>GENTR</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 mL no additive (red), do not use gel separator tubes</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Do not use gel separator tubes</b>

### **Glucose AC**

Mnemonic	<b>GLUAC</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Fasting 8 hours</b>

---

### Glucose Loading Dose (50gm Oral Drink)- Gestational

Mnemonic	<b>GTTLOAD</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Collect a blood sample one hour after the 50-gram glucose drink is finished. No fasting required.</b>

---

### Glucose Monitor

Mnemonic	<b>GLUM</b>
Specimen	<b>Finger prick</b>
Collection Tube	<b>N/A</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Nurse to draw</b>

---

### Glucose PC

Mnemonic	<b>GLUPC</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>2 hours after last meal. See specific dietary instructions.</b>

---

### Glucose Random

Mnemonic	<b>GLUR</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection</b>

---

### Glucose Tolerance Test (75gm Oral Dose)

Mnemonic	<b>GTT</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)</b>
For lab use only	<b>Collect a fasting glucose AC prior to administering the drink.</b>

**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

Collect a blood sample two hours after the 75-gram glucose drink is finished. 8 hours fast required.

**Glucose Tolerance Test (75gm Oral Drink) – Gestational**

Mnemonic	<b>GTTG</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Collect blood samples one hour and two hours after the 75 grams glucose drink is finished. 8 hours fast required.</b>

**HCG Quantitative**

Mnemonic	<b>HCGSQ</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)</b>

**HDL Cholesterol**

Mnemonic	<b>HDL</b>
	<b>Order LIPID if LDL, CHOL, and TRIG ordered as well</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Patient must fast 12 hours prior to collection</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection</b>

**H.Pylori Antigen**

Mnemonic	<b>STHPAG</b>
Specimen	<b>Stool</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Sterile container</b>
Special Instructions	<b>If sent from another site, keep frozen.</b>

**Hemoglobin A1C**

Mnemonic	<b>A1C</b>
----------	------------

**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

Specimen	<b>Whole Blood</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3- or 4-ml mauve (EDTA)</b>

---

**Hepatitis B Surface Antibody**

Mnemonic	<b>HEPBSAB</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3.5 ml Gold SST or 10 ml red (no anticoagulant)</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Allow to clot for 1 hour. Test samples as soon as possible after collecting.</b>

---

**Hepatitis B Surface Antigen**

Mnemonic	<b>HEPBSAG</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3.5 ml Gold SST or 10 ml red (no anticoagulant)</b>
For lab use only	<b>Allow to clot for 1 hour. Test samples as soon as possible after collecting.</b>

---

**Hepatitis C Antibody**

Mnemonic	<b>HEPC</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3.5 ml Gold SST or 10 ml red (no anticoagulant)</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Allow to clot for 1 hour. Test samples as soon as possible after collecting.</b>

---

**HIV 1/2 Antibody**

Mnemonic	<b>HIV</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3.5 ml Gold SST or 10 ml red (no anticoagulant)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Allow to clot for 1 hour. Test samples as soon as possible after collecting.</b>

---

**Ionized Calcium**

Mnemonic	<b>CAION</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma-PST</b>

**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

Collection Tube	<b>3 mL Lithium Heparin plasma separator tube. (Light green tube)</b>
Stability	<b>Place on ice immediately after collection.</b>
Centrifuge	<b>Must be centrifuge within 2 hours of collection.</b>
For Lab Use Only	<b>After centrifugation samples should remain capped and kept cold prior to analysis</b>

---

**Iron**

Mnemonic	<b>IRON</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum or Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin (light green), 4 mL no-additive (red)</b>
For Lab Use Only	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection</b>

---

**Kleihauer**

Mnemonic	<b>KLQ</b>
Specimen	<b>Whole Blood</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3- or 4-ml mauve (EDTA) or 1 x 7ml pink top tube (EDTA)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Must be drawn within 24 hours of time of delivery or suspected hemorrhage, CBC sample is acceptable provided it was collected within the 24 hours following delivery or suspected hemorrhage.</b>

---

**Lactate**

Mnemonic	<b>LACW</b>
Specimen	<b>Whole Blood</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 mL dark green (Lithium heparin)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Transport at room temperature</b>
Stability	<b>Must be tested within 30 minutes of collection.</b>
For Lab Use Only	<b>Do not spin</b>

---

**Lactate Dehydrogenase**

Mnemonic	<b>LDH</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)</b>



**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

Special Instructions For Lab Use Only	<b>Must have clinical note to be tested Must be spun within 2 hours of collection.</b>
--	--

---

**LDL Cholesterol, calculated**

Mnemonic	<b>LDL Order LIPID if HDL, CHOL, and TRIG ordered as well</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Patient must fast 12 hours prior to collection</b>
For Lab Use Only	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection.</b>

---

**Lipase**

Mnemonic	<b>LIP</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection</b>

---

**Lithium**

Mnemonic	<b>LI</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 ml red (no anticoagulant) or sodium heparin (Do not use gel separators)</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Do not use tubes containing Lithium Heparin</b>

---

**Luteinizing Hormone**

Mnemonic	<b>LH</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3.5 ml gold stoppered serum separator tube</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Allow to clot for 1 hour</b>

### Magnesium

Mnemonic	<b>MG</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection</b>

---

### Magnesium (Urine)

Mnemonic	<b>UMGR</b>
Specimen	<b>Urine</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Sterile urine container</b>

---

### Malaria Smear

Mnemonic	<b>MAL</b>
Specimen	<b>Whole Blood</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 ml mauve (EDTA)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Specimen should be drawn when patient's temperature is elevated</b>
For Lab use only	<b>&lt;4 hours</b>

---

### Microalbumin (Screen)

Mnemonic	<b>U ACR</b>
Specimen	<b>Urine</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Urine</b>

---

### Mononucleosis

Mnemonic	<b>MONO</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum or Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 ml red or 3.5ml Gold SST (no anticoagulant) or 3 mL mauve (EDTA)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Hemolyzed and/or contaminated samples cannot be tested.</b>
<b>For Lab use only</b>	<b>Allow Red tube to clot for 1 hour before separation.</b>

### **Occult Blood**

Mnemonic	<b>STOB1, STOB2, STOB3</b>
Specimen	<b>Stool</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Hemocult stool collection card</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Hemocult occult blood test is not to be used with gastric specimens. Collection instructions can be provided.</b>

### **Osmolality – Plasma/Serum**

Mnemonic	<b>OSMO</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma or Serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin (light green), 3.5 ml stoppered serum separator (gold) or 4 mL no additive (red)</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Do not uncap specimen</b>

### **Osmolality - Urine**

Mnemonic	<b>UOSMO</b>
Specimen	<b>Urine</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Sterile urine container, random urine or 24-hour collection non preservative</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Do not uncap specimen</b>

### **Peripheral Blood Morphology**

Mnemonic	<b>PBM</b>
Specimen	<b>Whole Blood</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 mL EDTA (mauve)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Lab adds a PBM to any concerning CBC</b>

### **Phosphorous**

Mnemonic	<b>PHOS</b>
----------	-------------

**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collections</b>

---

**POC Glucose**

Mnemonic	<b>POC Glucose</b>
Specimen	<b>Whole blood</b>
Collection Tube	<b>N/A</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Wipe away first drop of blood with gauze.</b>

---

**Potassium (Urine)**

Mnemonic	<b>UKR</b>
Specimen	<b>Urine</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Sterile urine container</b>

---

**Pre-Albumin**

Mnemonic	<b>PREALB</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection</b>

---

**Pregnancy Test (Urine)**

Mnemonic	<b>HCG</b>
Specimen	<b>Urine</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Urine</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Colchester only – Specific Gravity &lt; 1.015 needs the Get Comment SGLOW</b>

---

**Prolactin**

Mnemonic	<b>PROL</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum SST</b>

**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

Collection Tube                      **3.5 ml gold stoppered serum separator tube**

---

**Prostate-Specific Antigen**

Mnemonic                              **PSA**  
 Specimen                                **Serum SST**  
 Collection Tube                        **3.5 ml gold stoppered serum separator tube or 4 mL no additive (red)**

---

**Protein Creatinine Ratio**

Mnemonic                              **U PCR**  
 Specimen                                **Urine**  
 Collection Tube                        **Sterile urine container**

---

**PT/INR (PROTHROMBIN TIME)**

Mnemonic                              **PTINR**  
 Specimen                                **Plasma**  
 Collection Tube                        **2.7 ml blue (3.2% sodium citrate)**  
 Special Instructions                 **Tube must be filled to the line. Do not refrigerate**

---

**Random Protein (Urine)**

Mnemonic                              **UTPR**  
 Specimen                                **Urine**  
 Collection Tube                        **Sterile urine container**  
 Stability                                 **Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory**

---

**Rapid Covid-19**

Mnemonic                              **COVST**  
 Specimen                                **Nasopharyngeal Specimen**  
 Collection Tube                        **UTM Swab**

**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

Special Instructions	<b>Floor must notify lab to perform swab as a Rapid Covid-19 (Can be ordered by lab staff only)</b>
----------------------	---

---

**Reticulocyte Count**

Mnemonic	<b>RETIC</b>
Specimen	<b>Whole Blood</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 or 4ml mauve (EDTA)</b>

---

**Rheumatoid Factor**

Mnemonic	<b>RA</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 ml red or 3.5 ml Gold SST (no anticoagulant)</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Allow to clot for 1 hour after collection</b>

---

**Rubella IgG Antibody**

Mnemonic	<b>RUB</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum SST</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3.5 ml gold stoppered serum separator tube or 4 mL no additive (red)</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Allow to clot for 1 hour after collection. Test samples as soon as possible after collecting.</b>

---

**Salicylate**

Mnemonic	<b>SAL</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum or plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 ml green (sodium heparin) or 4 ml red (no anticoagulant)</b>

---

**Semen Analysis**

Mnemonic	<b>SA</b>
Specimen	<b>Semen</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Sterile container</b>

**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

Special Instructions	<b>Delivered to laboratory within 30 minutes of collection and maintain at 37°C.</b>
Stability	<b>30 minutes</b>

---

**Semen Analysis Post Vasectomy**

Mnemonic	<b>SAPV</b>
Specimen	<b>Semen</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Sterile container</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Delivered to laboratory within 30 minutes of collection and maintain at 37°C.</b>
Stability	<b>30 minutes</b>

---

**Sodium (Urine)**

Mnemonic	<b>UNAR</b>
Specimen	<b>Urine</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Sterile urine container</b>

---

**Syphilis IgG Antibody**

Mnemonic	<b>SYPHI</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>10 mL no additive (red) or 3.5 mL Gold Top SST (no additive)</b>

---

**Total Iron Binding Capacity & % Saturation**

Mnemonic	<b>TIBC</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3.5 ml Gold Top SST (no anticoagulant) or 4 ml red (no anticoagulant)</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection</b>

---

**Total Carbon Dioxide**

Mnemonic	<b>CO2T</b>
----------	-------------

**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Do not uncap specimens prior to testing</b>

---

**Total Protein**

Mnemonic	<b>TP</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)</b>

---

**Triglycerides Level**

Mnemonic	<b>TRIG</b>
	<b>order LIPID if CHOL, LDL, and HDL are ordered as well</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>12 hour fast</b>

---

**Troponin I - High Sensitivity**

Mnemonic	<b>TROPIHS</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Must be spun within 2 hours of collection</b>

---

**Thyroid Stimulating Hormone**

Mnemonic	<b>TSH</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3.5 ml stoppered serum separator (gold)</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Allow to clot 1 hour</b>

---

**Urea (BUN)**

Mnemonic	<b>UREA</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma</b>



**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

Collection Tube                      **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)**

---

**Urea (Urine)**

Mnemonic                              **UUREAR**  
 Specimen                                **Urine**  
 Collection Tube                        **Sterile urine container**

---

**Uric Acid**

Mnemonic                              **URIC**  
 Specimen                                **Plasma**  
 Collection Tube                        **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)**

---

**Uric Acid (Urine)**

Mnemonic                              **UURICR**  
 Specimen                                **Urine**  
 Collection Tube                        **Sterile urine container**

---

**Urinalysis**

Mnemonic                              **UA**  
 Specimen                                **Urine**  
 Collection Tube                        **Sterile urine container >3 mL**  
 Special Instructions                **Preferred sample is first morning urine, no preservatives.**

---

**Vancomycin Random**

Mnemonic                              **VANR**  
 Specimen                                **Plasma or Serum**  
 Collection Tube                        **4 mL Sodium or 4 ml Lithium heparin (dark green) or 4 mL no additive (red).**  
 Special Instructions                **Fill in the date and time of last dose. Do not use gel separators.**

---

### **Vancomycin Trough Level**

Mnemonic	<b>VANPRE</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma or Serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 mL Sodium or 4 ml Lithium heparin (dark green) or 4 mL no additive (red).</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Fill in the date and time of last dose. Do not use gel separators. Sodium heparin is recommended for collection when patients are receiving anticoagulants.</b>

---

### **Valproic Acid (Depakene) Level**

Mnemonic	<b>VALP</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 ml red (no anticoagulant) or sodium heparin. Do not use gel separators</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Last dose needs to be noted in Meditech with date and time</b>

---

### **Venous Blood Gas (Standard and Extended)**

Mnemonic	<b>VBG (Standard) or VBGEX (Extended)</b>
Specimen	<b>Whole Blood</b>
Collection Tube	<b>4 ml green (lithium heparin)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Transport at room temperature.</b>
Stability	<b>Optimal analysis is within 30 minutes of collection, to a maximum of 60 minutes</b>
Lab Use Only	<b>Do not spin</b>

---

### **Venous Cord Blood Gas**

Mnemonic	<b>VCOBG</b>
Specimen	<b>Cord Blood</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Syringe</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Transport at room temperature</b>
Stability	<b>Optimal analysis is within 30 minutes of collection, to a maximum of 60 minutes. Please use clot catcher when running.</b>

---

NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE

## Vitamin B12

Mnemonic	<b>B12</b>
Specimen	<b>Serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>3.5 ml gold stoppered serum separator tube</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Allow to clot 1 hour</b>

---

# TRANSFUSION MEDICINE TEST CATALOGUE

## **Information for collection of Transfusion Medicine specimens:**

Accurate patient identification is critical. Follow Nova Scotia Health policy on Patient Identification located on the NSH intranet OP3-CL-SR-025. Follow Transfusion Medicine collection criteria located in the Venipuncture for blood Specimen Collection NSH policy CL-BP-040.

All Inpatients and ER patients must be wearing an armband before they are collected.

**If markers PT2PINK or PT4PINK are present on large Meditech label, ensure additional tubes are collected.**

Information required on requisition and specimen labels:

i) Full patient name (First and Last Name)

ii) Patient date of birth and patient Health Card number (HCN)

iii) Transfusion Medicine Labelling Requirements:

➤ **TM Requisition (Large Label):**

- ✓ Collector's Meditech ID or Independent Phlebotomy code
- ✓ Collector's full signature
- ✓ Date and Time of Collection
- ✓ Full legible signature of witness. **Do not use initials for the first name.**

➤ **All specimen tube(s):**

- ✓ Collector's Meditech ID
- ✓ Collector's initials
- ✓ Date and Time of Collection
- ✓ Witness initials

iv) See poster below for an example

# Northern Zone COLLECTING AN ABO & SCREEN

FYI: EDTA Tubes are 6 mL with a Pink Top

- ### 1. PRIOR TO COLLECTION

Ensure there is an **order and consent to collect specimen.**

Obtain the correct specimen labels for your patient.

### 2. AT THE BEDSIDE: IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PATIENT

Collector and Witness verify that information on labels exactly matches the patient's ID armband.

  - Spelling of all names
  - Date of Birth
  - Health Card Number (LIS Downtime)

Collect EDTA tube and any other necessary bloodwork from the patient. Fill the tube. If having difficulty, consult Transfusion Medicine.

### 3. SPECIMEN LABELS

**\*\*NOTE: the large label is the requisition.\*\***

**Large Specimen Label:**  
The Meditech Mnemonic AND full signature is required for the Collector

**Small Specimen Label:**  
Collector initials and writes Meditech Mnemonic on small label

**Witness must sign full name on large label**

**Witness must initial small label**

**IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PATIENT: Place the small label lengthwise on tube**

*So the bar code can be scanned*

**Collector must ensure date and time of collection is on both specimen labels**

### 4. SEND TO TRANSFUSION MEDICINE

Send labels with specimen(s) to the lab in the same specimen collection bag

#### FOLLOW THE STEPS

Samples that do not conform to this process will be cancelled and a proper recollection required. It is imperative to patient safety that these steps be performed and documented exactly as described.  
**No exceptions are made.**

#### DO NOT USE GEL PENS, PENCILS OR MARKERS

Refer to Policies CL-SR-025 Client Identification or CL-BP-040 Venipuncture for Blood Specimen Collection - Policy and Procedure

**Contact Transfusion Medicine Services for assistance**

PPR-G-TM-0006 Effective date 2021/04/01  
Developed by the NSPBCT  
For an online version visit <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/nova-scotia-provincial-blood-coordinating-program-7>

### Antibody Screen

Mnemonic	ABS
Specimen	Plasma
Collection Tube	6 mL EDTA (pink)
Special Instructions	See information for collection of Transfusion Medicine specimens on pages 36-37.

---

### Crossmatch of Red Cell(s)

Mnemonic	GRRH & ABS & RC(s)
Specimen	Plasma
Collection Tube	6 mL EDTA (pink)
Special Instructions	See information for collection of Transfusion Medicine specimens on pages 36-37.

---

### Blood Bank QE2

Mnemonic	BBQE2
Specimen	Plasma
Collection Tube	6 mL EDTA (pink)
Special Instructions	Patient presents with a Pre-op req from QEII with BBQE2 stamped on it. Collector to follow collection protocol for Transfusion Medicine specimens (pages 36-37) and complete the QEII requisition with collector and witness required information. Tube is to be directly referred out to the QEII.

---

### Blood Bank Hold

Mnemonic	BBHOLD
Specimen	Plasma
Collection Tube	6 mL EDTA (pink)
Special Instructions	See information for collection of Transfusion Medicine specimens on pages 36-37.

---

### Blood Group/Type

Mnemonic	GRRH
----------	------

**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

Specimen	Plasma
Collection Tube	<b>6 mL EDTA (pink)</b>
Special Instructions	See information for collection of Transfusion Medicine specimens on pages 36-37.

---

### Indirect Antiglobulin Test

Mnemonic	IDAT
Specimen	Whole Blood
Collection Tube	<b>6 mL EDTA (pink)</b>
Special Instructions	See information for collection of Transfusion Medicine specimens on pages 36-37.

---

### Direct Antiglobulin Test (Coombs)

Mnemonic	DAT
Specimen	Whole Blood
Collection Tube	<b>6 mL EDTA (pink) or EDTA (lavender)</b>
Special Instructions	See information for collection of Transfusion Medicine specimens on pages 36-37.

---

### Cord DAT

Mnemonic	CORD DAT
Specimen	Whole Blood
Collection Tube	<b>6 mL EDTA (pink) or 4 mL EDTA (lavender) or 10 mL serum (red)</b>

---

### Cord GRRH

Mnemonic	CORD GRRH
Specimen	Whole Blood
Collection Tube	<b>6 mL EDTA (pink) or 4 mL EDTA (lavender) or 10 mL serum (red)</b>

---

### Cord HOLD

Mnemonic	CORD HOLD
----------	-----------

**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

Specimen	<b>Whole Blood</b>
Collection Tube	<b>6 mL EDTA (pink) or 4 mL EDTA (lavender) or 10 mL serum (red)</b>

---

**Kleihauer**

Mnemonic	<b>KLQ</b>
Specimen	<b>Whole Blood</b>
Collection Tube	<b>6 mL EDTA (pink) or 4 mL EDTA (lavender)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Must be drawn as soon as possible after delivery or for a suspected hemorrhage, CBC sample is acceptable, provided it was collected following delivery or suspected hemorrhage. This is not a STAT test, WhnRho is required to be given within 72 hours of the event.</b>

---

**Transfusion Reaction Investigation**

Mnemonic	<b>TRX</b>
Specimen	<b>Plasma or Serum</b>
Collection Tube	<b>6 mL EDTA pink top (EDTA) and 10mL serum (red)</b>
Special Instructions	<b>See information for collection of Transfusion Medicine specimens on pages 36-37.</b>

---

**Neonatal GRRH**

Mnemonic	<b>NEO-GRRH</b>
Specimen	<b>Whole Blood</b>
Collection Tube	<b>EDTA (lavender) microtainer or a Red (non-additive) microtainer-refer to Appendix G: Maximum Total Pediatric Blood Collection Volume in the Venipuncture for Blood Specimen Collection policy and Procedure (CL-PB-040) prior to collecting blood on a Neonate.</b>

---



## MICROBIOLOGY TEST CATALOGUE

Refer to Provincial Microbiology User's Manual PPHLN – M0008-03 for instructions and tests not found in this manual. [provincial-microbiology-users-manual.pdf](http://provincial-microbiology-users-manual.pdf)

### SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND TRANSPORT INTRODUCTION

This guide to specimen collection and transport provides information on the appropriate collection and handling of optimal specimens to ensure the best chance of detection of organisms causing infection. It is hoped this manual will be able to provide advice to give guidance in most circumstances. If a laboratory user has a question that remains unanswered after consulting the manual, a laboratory staff member or Microbiologist should be contacted.

Specimens often contain potentially infectious micro-organisms: consequently, it is essential that routine precautions be followed. All specimens should be considered hazardous, not only for the micro-organisms that are suspected of being present, but also for other infectious agents that are present at low prevalence in the population. As carriage of these infectious agents is often not known either to the patient or to the physician or health care worker, the best defense against infection is to assume that the specimens are infectious and to take precautions accordingly.

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Specimens are collected to provide information about organisms that are causing infection. While these organisms can be part of the normal flora, it is important to ensure that normal flora is excluded from the specimen as much as possible.
- Pathogens may be a small component of the organisms contained within a specimen collected from a site that possesses a normal flora. Use of transport medium, and refrigeration when transportation to the laboratory is required can be important to preserve the viability of organisms to allow their detection.
- When infection is caused by a complex flora, cultures may only detect a subset of the organisms present.
- Extensive workup of isolates in these circumstances is often not helpful as results are delayed and do not reflect the range of organisms present. These specimens are reported reflecting the type of flora present.
- Treatment is best chosen empirically.
- Specimens should be collected before starting antimicrobial agents wherever possible, without compromising care.
- When specimens are collected, it is important that the external surface of the specimen container and the requisition are not contaminated. Leaking specimens or specimens with evidence of external contamination will usually result in rejection of the specimen by the laboratory.
- As soon as the specimen is collected and the container appropriately labelled, the specimen container should be placed in a plastic specimen bag. The requisition should be completed and placed in the side pouch separate from the specimen container. **The requisition should not be placed in the same part of the bag as the specimen.**

### NOTE:

**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

- Use appropriate specimen collection material. Sterile collection material and aseptic technique must be used for collection of specimens using invasive procedures.
- For specimens from non-sterile sites, attempt to collect the specimen with as little contamination from the surrounding normal flora as possible. PPHLN: Provincial Microbiology User's Manual - 2017

#### **PPHLN-M0008-029**

- If a specimen is to be collected through intact skin, the skin should be disinfected thoroughly, allowing several minutes for the disinfectant to have effect. Examples of skin disinfectants include 70% alcohol, iodine solution, povidone-iodine, chlorhexidine, etc. If tincture of iodine is used, remove with 70% ethanol after procedure to prevent burning.
- An adequate amount of specimen should be collected. As a general rule, more is better than less. For example, a tube or urine container with 10 ml of pus is a better specimen than a swab. Small amounts of specimen are subject to drying, becoming aerobic, and other forms of deterioration, whereas larger volumes minimize the risk of false negative results.

#### **SPECIMEN IDENTIFICATION AND INFORMATION**

- The specimen should be collected in the standard containers available through hospital stores. These containers are selected to have low failure rates and may be selected to be compatible with instruments.
- Both the specimen container and the requisition must be labelled with two means of identification. Legal name and a government issued number are accepted. Date of birth is not acceptable as an identifier. This is an accreditation requirement. The date and time of collection must be indicated also.
- The specimen source should be clearly and completely indicated to ensure that the appropriate processing takes place. For example, a "swab of the hip" taken in the OR from the joint would be processed/interpreted quite differently from a superficial swab of a hip ulcer.
- When specific diagnoses are being considered, they may have a bearing on the processing of the specimen; these diagnoses should be indicated in the clinical detail section on the requisition to ensure that the specific questions can be answered. This is particularly important if the suspect organism is unusual or requires extraordinary processing.
- Pertinent historical data (e.g. travel, association with a known outbreak, immunosuppression, or underlying disease) should be indicated in the clinical detail section of the requisition. For example, travel history is important in detection of species of organism that are not locally endemic.

#### **SPECIMEN TRANSPORT – GENERAL GUIDELINES**

- Specimens should be transported to the laboratory as quickly as possible.
- Specimens that cannot be transported rapidly should be refrigerated, with the following exceptions:
  - Blood cultures should be held at room temperature.
  - CSF cultures should be held at room temperature (meningococci are susceptible to cold). PPHLN: Provincial Microbiology User's Manual
  - Skin scrapings should be kept at room temperature as dermatophytes are cold sensitive.
  - Stool cultures for bacteriology should be mixed with enteric transport medium (Carey-Blair Enteric Transport medium) and kept refrigerated.

**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

- Stool for parasitology should be placed in a sterile container without any preservative and kept refrigerated. If patient has travelled out of country stool should be mixed with parasite transport medium (SAF) and kept at room temperature.
- Stool for virology or cytotoxicity (C.Diff) should be placed in a sterile container without any preservative. Store specimen refrigerated prior to transport on ice pack.
- Swabs should be transported to the laboratory in Amies Transport Medium.
- For anaerobic culture, as much fluid or pus as possible (up to 50ml) should be collected and sent without delay in a dry sterile container. (Swabs with Amies Transport Medium is also acceptable)

**NOTE:**

- Do not send specimens in syringes for culture. There are difficulties with maintenance of anaerobic conditions in plastic syringes. Recapping of needles is not recommended because of the risk of needle stick injury.
- If the volume of the specimen is very low, non-bacteriostatic saline (preservative free) may be drawn up and used to flush the syringe into a sterile container.

**Abscess Culture**

Mnemonic	<b>ABSC</b>
Specimen	<b>Swab</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Amies Swab,</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Specify Site, this includes dental abscess and Bartholin cyst specimens.</b>
Stability	<b>72 hours 2-8°C</b>

**AFB (TB) Culture**

Mnemonic	<b>AFBC</b>
Specimen	<b>Sputum or Bronch Wash</b>
Collection Tube	<b>sterile C/S container</b>
Special Instructions	<b>For blood culture for AFB see Blood Culture Mycobacteria/T</b>
Stability	<b>2-8°C</b>

**Aspirate Culture**

Mnemonic	<b>ASPC</b>
Specimen	
Collection Tube	<b>Sterile C/S Container</b>

**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

Special Instructions	<b>Specify Site</b>
Stability	<b>48 hours at 2 to 8°C</b>

---

**Body Fluid Culture**

Mnemonic	<b>BFC (Gallbladder Fluid-order as MISC)</b>
Specimen	
Collection Tube	<b>Sterile C/S Container add heparin and indicate addition</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Includes gram stain</b>
Stability	<b>Send to lab ASAP at 2 to 8°C</b>
For Lab use only	<b>Gallbladder fluid is not STAT</b>

---

**Blood Culture Aerobic**

Mnemonic	<b>BLDAER (Change Count to 1 in LIS if only one blood culture ordered, LIS defaults to 2)</b>
Specimen	<b>Add 5-10 ml of venous blood per adult bottle and 1-4 ml per pediatric bottle for pediatric patients. <u>Do Not</u> over fill culture bottles.</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Appropriate Blood Culture bottle.</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Discard first 1 mL of blood in a discard tube to avoid skin contamination of the blood culture. Change Count to 1 in LIS if only one blood culture ordered, LIS defaults to 2.</b>
Stability	<b>Deliver to lab ASAP at Room Temp</b>

---

**Blood Culture (use if aerobic and anaerobic blood cultures requested by Physician)**

Mnemonic	<b>BLDAER and BLDANA (Change Count to 1 in LIS if only one blood culture ordered, LIS defaults to 2)</b>
Specimen	<b>Add 5-10 ml of venous blood per adult bottle and 1-4 ml per pediatric bottle for pediatric patients. <u>Do Not</u> over fill culture bottles.</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Appropriate Blood Culture bottle.</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Discard first 1 mL of blood in a discard tube to avoid skin contamination of the blood culture.</b>
Stability	<b>Deliver to lab ASAP at Room Temp</b>

---

### Blood Culture Mycobacteria/TB

Mnemonic	BLTB
Specimen	Add 3-5 ml of venous blood per adult bottle and 1-4 ml per pediatric bottle for pediatric patients. <b>Do Not</b> over fill culture bottles.
Collection Tube	Appropriate <b>Blood Culture bottle must be obtained from QEII</b> prior to collection.
Special Instructions	Discard first 1 mL of blood in a discard tube to avoid skin contamination of the blood culture.
Stability	Deliver to lab ASAP at Room Temp

---

### Bone Culture (aerobic and anaerobic)

Mnemonic	BONC
Specimen	
Collection Tube	Sterile C/S Container
Special Instructions	Deliver to lab without delay at Room Temp
For Lab Use Only	<b>Add Thio to cover specimen. Send by STAT run to Colchester at Room Temp</b>

---

### Clostridium difficile (Stool) (C.diff)

Mnemonic	CDIF
Specimen	Stool, liquid (not formed)
Collection Tube	Sterile C/S Container
Stability	<b>72</b> hours at 2-8°C

---

### Chlamydia/GC

Mnemonic	CHLGPCR or UCHLGPCR
Specimen	Aptima Swab (female) Vaginal or Urine (male)
Collection Tube	Apitma swab (female) or Sterile C/S container (male)
Special Instructions	The preferred specimen for women remains a vaginal swab. Urine is the preferred specimen for male (first 20mL voided, patient must not have urinated in the past 2 hrs).
Stability	Aptima swab <b>3 days at 2-8°C</b>

---

**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

**COVID**

Special Instructions    See COVID in Lab section of this manual as test is ordered in the LAB Module in LIS.

---

**CSF Culture**

Mnemonic	<b>CSFC</b>
Specimen	<b>CSF</b>
Collection Tube	<b>CSF Collection Tube # 3</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Deliver to lab ASAP</b>
For Lab Use Only	<b>Send by STAT run to Colchester at Room Temp</b>

---

**Ear Culture**

Mnemonic	<b>EARC</b>
Specimen	<b>Swab</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Amies Swab</b>
Stability	<b>72 hours at 2-8°C</b>

---

**Eye Culture**

Mnemonic	<b>EYEC</b>
Specimen	<b>Swab</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Amies Swab</b>
Stability	<b>72 hours at 2-8°C</b>

---

**Fungal Culture Dermatophytes**

Mnemonic	<b>FUCD</b>
Specimen	<b>Scrapings</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Kit available from lab, dark paper.</b>
Special Instructions	<b>See Provincial Microbiology user's manual.</b>

---

**Fungal Culture Systemic**

Mnemonic	<b>FUCS</b>
Specimen	<b>Bronchial Wash</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Sterile C/S container</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Test performed at QEII</b>

### Miscellaneous Aerobic Culture

Mnemonic	<b>MISC</b>
Specimen	<b>Swab</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Amies Swab</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Specify Site. Includes gram stain.</b>
Stability	<b>72 hours at 2-8°C</b>

---

### Mouth Culture

Mnemonic	<b>MOUC</b>
Specimen	<b>Swab</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Amies Swab</b>
Stability	<b>72 hours at 2-8°C</b>

---

### MRSA SCREEN

Mnemonic	<b>MRSA Specimen</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Amies Swab</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Order specimens "CONG" combo nares and groin</b>
Stability	<b>72 hours at 2-8°C</b>

---

### Ova and Parasite Screen

Mnemonic	<b>OPSR</b>
Specimen	<b>Stool</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Sterile C/S container or SAF Fixative</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Test not indicated for in patents in hospital &gt;72hrs. Indicate if travel outside of country and test request will be changed to OPCT and sent to QEII for O&amp;P microscopy.</b>
Stability	<b>72 hours at 2-8°C</b>

---

### Pinworm Examination

Mnemonic	<b>PINW</b>
Specimen	<b>Scotch tape (shiny) collection of perianal area, attached to a glass slide</b>
Stability	<b>24 hours at room temperature</b>

### Placenta Culture and TRUE swabs for stillborn

Mnemonic	<b>MISC</b>
Specimen	<b>Placenta (Maternal and Fetal) TRUE (fetus throat, Fetus rectal, Fetus umbilical, Fetus ear)</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Amies swab</b>
Stability	<b>72 hours at 2-8°C</b>

### Sputum Culture

Mnemonic	<b>SPUC</b>
Specimen	<b>C/S Container</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Sterile C/S container</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Indicate if expectorated, suction, induced or Bronchial wash specimen.</b>
Stability	<b>24 hours at 2-8°C</b>

### Stool Culture

Mnemonic	<b>STOC</b>
Specimen	<b>Stool</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Enteric Transport Media</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Test not indicated for in patents in hospital &gt;72hrs.</b>
Stability	<b>24 hours at 2-8°C</b>

### Stool Viral Culture

Mnemonic	<b>VIRC</b>
Specimen	<b>Stool</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Sterile C/S container</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Specify virus requested. Test will be performed at QEII.</b>
Stability	<b>24 hours at 2-8°C</b>

### Throat Culture

Mnemonic	<b>THRC</b>
Specimen	<b>swab</b>



**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

Collection Tube	<b>Amies swab</b>
Stability	<b>72 hours at 2-8°C</b>

---

**Tissue Culture**

Mnemonic	<b>TISC</b>
Specimen	<b>Tissue</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Sterile C/S container</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Specify Site. Includes gram stain. Deliver to lab ASAP.</b>
Stability	<b>Keep at room temperature and deliver to lab ASAP.</b>
For Lab Use Only	<b>Add THIO to cover specimen. Send by STAT run to Colchester at Room Temp</b>

---

**Trichomonas (Wet Prep Trichomonas)**

Mnemonic	<b>VAGS</b>
Specimen	<b>swab</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Amies swab</b>
Stability	<b>24 hours at 2-8°C</b>

---

**Umbilical Culture**

Mnemonic	<b>UMBC</b>
Specimen	<b>swab</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Amies swab</b>
Stability	<b>72 hours 2-8°C</b>

---

**Urine Culture**

Mnemonic	<b>URNC</b>
Specimen	<b>urine</b>
Collection Tube	<b>sterile C/S container</b>
Stability	<b>Refrigerate 2-8°C. Must be cultured within 24hs of collection.</b>
For Lab Use Only	<b>Urine C&amp;S Preservative tube for transport to Colchester within 48 hours at 2-8°. Low volume urines send in dry sterile container send ASAP at 2-8°C.</b>

---

**Vaginal Strep Group B Screen Culture**

Mnemonic	<b>VAGB</b>
----------	-------------

**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

Specimen	<b>vag/rectal</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Amies swab</b>
Stability	<b>72</b> hours 2-8°C

---

### Vaginal Culture

Mnemonic	<b>VAGC- do not order unless than 12 years old or requested by specialist or clinical indication for culture</b> <b>Order VAGC (Vaginitis culture) for patient 12 years and older-source is VAGP</b>
Specimen	<b>Vaginal</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Amies swab</b>
Stability	<b>72</b> hours at 2-8°C

---

### Vaginal >50 years-older

Mnemonic	<b>GRSA</b>
Specimen	<b>Vaginal</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Amies swab</b>
Stability	<b>72</b> hours at 2-8°C

---

### Vaginitis Screen

Mnemonic	<b>VAGS</b>
Specimen	<b>swab</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Amies swab</b>
Stability	<b>72</b> hours at 2-8°C

---

### Viral Culture

Mnemonic	<b>VIRC</b>
Specimen	<b>swab or stool</b>
Collection Tube	<b>COPAN UTM or Viral Transport Media for swab or sterile C/S container for stool</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Specify virus requested. Refrigeration is recommended once collected. Deliver to lab ASAP.</b>
Stability	<b>Refrigerate after collection and freeze if delay in sending to reference lab.</b>

## VRE SCREEN

Mnemonic	<b>VRE</b>
Specimen	<b>Swab</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Amies Agar Swab for screen</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Rectal Swab</b>
Stability	<b>72</b> hours at 2-8°C

---

## Wound Culture

Mnemonic	<b>WOUC</b>
Specimen	<b>Swab</b>
Collection Tube	<b>Amies Agar Swab</b>
Special Instructions	<b>Specify Site. Includes gram stain.</b>
Stability	<b>72</b> hours at 2-8°C

---

## Revision History

**NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE**

Version	Date	Reason	Revised By
1.1	2022-09-19	Tube change provincially for ionized calcium and a few minor updates.	Leanne Carter, QTS
<b>2.0</b>	2024-03-22	<p>Added Cortisol DST as it is now performed at CEHHC instead of being referred to QE2. Revised instructions for the Transfusion medicine; Current white requisition is being discontinued and the large Meditech label will serve as the spot for collector and witness signature.</p> <p>Removed 24-hour urine cortisol and 24-hour urine phosphorus testing as now referred to the QEII. Tobramycin testing now referred out as well.</p> <p>Updated sodium heparin tube to lithium heparin dark green tube for Vancomycin testing on the EXL.</p> <p>Removed Platelet function assay referred to Aberdeen as testing is no longer being performed at this site (analyzer removed from service).</p> <p>Updated Transfusion Medicine requirements. (Discontinued paper req) and placed TM collections into one section of the manual. Updated number of tubes required to be collected.</p>	<p>Holly Mosher, Pre-Analytical TS</p> <p>Alice Jones TM SR MLT</p> <p>Leanne Carter, QTS</p>
V2.1	2024-08-20	Update TM tubes: use 6 mL pink tubes, not 7 mL. Cold Agglutinins Titer removed from Blood Transfusion section as it is now referred to the QE2. Updated micro section to correct stability times to match Job aid MB-J-09.	Leanne Carter, QTS

NORTHERN ZONE PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
COLCHESTER EAST HANTS HEALTH CENTRE  
LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE

<b>Approver</b>	
Name: Leanne Carter	Signature: See paper master
Position: Quality Technical Specialist	Date: 2024-08-20
<b>Approver</b>	
Name: Jim Humby	Signature: See paper master
Position: Northern Zone Lab Director	Date: 2024-08-21