

Rejection of Specimens

As part of our active quality assurance program and as part of requirements of various certifying agencies, we have developed the following list of specimen rejection criteria. These criteria were developed with the intention of ensuring accurate, meaningful patient results.

UNSATISFACTORY LABELING INFORMATION

- Specimens not labeled properly may be rejected for testing
- All specimens must be properly identified by patient's full legal name and date of birth. Note: Patients being drawn for blood bank testing must also be banded with a unique identification armband. All specimens for blood bank testing must be labeled with the patient's legal name, date of birth, date/time, first initial and full last name of phlebotomist, and an aliquot sticker from the Typenex band must be placed on each tube of blood.
- All specimens must be accompanied by a requisition which includes name, date of birth, gender, date and time of collection, and name of requesting provider.

INADEQUATE SPECIMEN DUE TO COLLECTION & TRANSPORT PROBLEMS

- Contamination of the specimen (e.g. bacterial contamination, hemolysis, etc.)
- Insufficient specimen for test requested, such as quantities less than those stated in the test directory.
- Collection in improper container (e.g. incorrect anticoagulant, unsterile container for cultures, improper preservative, or holding medium.)
- Failure to follow special instructions (e.g. draw and place on ice, protect from light, separate plasma immediately.)
- Prolonged delay in transportation
- Prolonged delay in processing (>4 hours un-centrifuged specimens)
- Improper transport temperature to maintain integrity of specimen for testing.
- Specimen collection with expired media
- Glass tubes for frozen specimens
- Pop off caps and tubes
- Leaking containers that compromise testing integrity
- Syringes with needles still attached
- Tubes secured with paraffin.

INADEQUATE SPECIMEN DUE TO PATIENT PREPARATION

- Non-fasting patient for a test that requires a fasting state
- Incorrect preparation of patient for test
- Specimen drawn at incorrect time (e.g. drug levels..)

All specimens are examined upon receipt by the laboratory to ensure suitability for analysis. If the specimen volume is insufficient or if the specimen has been improperly handled, the reliability of test results could be compromised and the specimen will not be processed. The customer will be contacted.

If a compromised specimen is accepted, a disclaimer will be made on the final report as to the nature of the problem and caution should be used when interpreting the results. If a specimen is rejected, the customer/physician will be contacted to decide disposition.

If there is any doubt or question regarding the type of specimen that should be collected, it is imperative that our customer service department be called at (402)717-5227, to clarify the order and sample requirements.