

REVISED GUIDE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF CITRATE PLASMA SAMPLES FOR COAGULATION TESTING

In order to obtain accurate results for coagulation assays, proper collection and handling of samples is crucial

When a request for the supply of citrate coagulation tubes is received, 2 types of sample tube will be issued:

- **Citrate/Coagulation sample tubes:** to be used for whole blood, and contain liquid anticoagulant in the form of sodium citrate. To be stored upright, at room temperature.
- **Plain tubes pre-labelled as "CITRATE PLASMA":** to be used for separated citrated plasma and contain **NO** anticoagulant.

Please check the sample tubes you have in store. We currently issue GREEN topped coagulation tubes, identified by the word COAGULATION along the green label. (Some other green -topped tubes, issued from other sources, are not suitable for coagulation and can be identified by the words LI-HEPARIN along the label).

Procedure:

1. Take blood sample from animal. At least 2 ml of blood is required to run PT and APTT (yield minimum of 1ml citrated plasma).
2. Remove needle and fill sample tubes in the appropriate order and to the level indicated on each tube.
3. Mix anti-coagulated tubes.
4. Ensure the coagulation tubes are not clotted. If they are, repeat sampling is required.
5. Centrifuge coagulation sample tubes (10 minutes at 3000 rpm or StatSpin VT hard cycle).
6. Use pipette to transfer plasma to sample tube labelled CITRATE PLASMA. If more than one coagulation tube has been used (we advise 2 tubes for a coagulation screen), place the plasma from each in a separate plain tube and label x1, x2 as appropriate.
7. Please remember to include an EDTA sample for platelet count, which is part of our coagulation profile.
8. Place all sample tubes including original coagulation tube(s) and citrate plasma tube(s) in the sample bag with the request form.
9. **To ensure the best results, please submit the citrated plasma samples frozen, packed with ice packs to prevent thawing, by overnight delivery to the laboratory.** If sampling at a time when tubes will not reach lab within 24 hours (e.g. weekends) it is best to store the freshly separated citrated plasma frozen and submit to the laboratory at a later date.

Note: Samples that are clotted or haemolysed will not be analysed because they would fail to provide accurate results

The submission of frozen separated citrate plasma will improve the quality of the samples received for coagulation at IDEXX, and we thank you for your co-operation in this endeavour.

If you would like more detailed information on the submission of samples for coagulation testing, or if you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our Client Services team: 02037887508.