

Guidelines for Evening and Weekend Storage of Samples

Note: Please check that the sample is labelled with the first and last names, site of collect for swabs and aspirates, date and time of collect.

Please refer to the Handbook for detailed instructions on specific assays

Aspirates	Transport to the laboratory without delay
Biochemistry:	If do not have a centrifuge, transport samples to arrive at the lab within 4 hrs Orange/Green top - centrifuge and refrigerate HbA1C (lavender top) – refrigerate for up to for 24hrs. DO NOT spin Glucose – grey top (fluoride) tube – refrigerate
Biopsy/ Tissue	Samples in Formalin – room temperature Fresh samples- urgent for immediate delivery to lab - See Medlab handbook for specific guidelines
Chlamydia:	Red top tubes – refrigerate Yellow top tubes – room temperature Initial stream urine - refrigerate
Coagulation:	INR's, PT's - Room temp for up to 12 hours DO NOT collect any other specialised coagulation tests (e.g. lupus, Factor V Leiden etc). Refer to handbook
Faeces:	Refrigerate
Haematology:	Room temperature for up to 24 hours
Seminal Fluid:	DO NOT collect out of laboratory, normal working hours
Serology:	If do not have a centrifuge, transport samples to arrive at the lab within 4hours Orange/Green top: centrifuge and refrigerate
Skin Scrapings:	Room temperature
Smears:	Room temperature
Sputum:	Refrigerate
Swabs (blue top):	Room temperature
Urines:	Refrigerate as soon as possible after collection
