

Clotting Instructions

Some tubes need to clot before centrifuging. Proper clotting of the specimen before centrifugation gives us the best quality specimen.

Recommendations are based on normal clotting process. Patients with abnormal clotting due to disease or anticoagulant therapy may require additional clotting time.

Red top serum and Gold top serum separator tubes contain spray-coated silica to aid in clotting. It is important that these tubes are inverted 8-10 times to mix blood with this clotting agent to achieve appropriate clotting times and clot formation.

Once blood is mixed with clotting agent, tubes should be allowed to sit upright (vertical position) for the recommended amount of time before centrifugation.

Listed are minimum clotting time recommendations:

1. Red Top tubes (non-additive) - clot for 30 min
2. Gold Top SST Tubes (gel barrier) - clot for 30 min.
3. Separation of serum from cells should take place in 1 hour after collection with 2 hours being the maximum time allowed.