NATF 1489 01 (RELATES TO NATS QAD 081)

**NATF 1552 01**

(relates to SOP NATS NMRU 072)

# SNBTS Microbiology Testing - Sample Storage and Transport Requirements

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| **Screening Test(s)** | **Sample storage requirements from point of bleed to testing (maximum time)** | **Sample shipping requirements** |
| **Molecular Tests** | | |
| Roche MPX triplex molecular screen (**HBV** DNA, **HCV** RNA, **HIV** RNA) | Samples collected in PPT vacutainers **must** be centrifuged within 72 hours of draw. |  |
| Roche Cobas **WNV** RNA | 72 hours @ > 8°C and <25°C (and up to 30°C for 24 hours within the 72 hours) |  |
|  | 12 days @ 2-8°C for samples collected pre-mortem |  |
|  | 30 days @ <-18°C for samples collected pre-mortem and if plasma separated from cells; 3 free/thaw cycles permitted |  |
| Grifols Procleix **HEV** RNA | Samples collected in PPT vacutainers **must** be centrifuged  within 72 hours of draw. |  |
|  | 72 hours @ > 8°C and <25°C (and up to 30°C for 24 hours within the 72 hours)  13 days @ 2-8°C for samples collected pre-mortem | Samples may be shipped between 2- 25C if either freshly collected OR previously stored at 2-8C OR previously stored frozen AND arrive within 72 hours for samples collected pre-mortem. |
|  |  | If shipping is longer than 24 hours, temperature controlled shipping (2-8C or frozen on dry ice as appropriate) is required. |
| SNBTS **HCV, HIV, HBV**, **HEV,**  **WNV** in-house NAT assays for blood samples[1](#_bookmark0) | Ideally plasma or serum samples should be centrifuged, separated  and frozen prior to sending to NMRU2. |
|  | Samples collected in PPT or EDTA vacutainers should ideally be centrifuged within 24 hours with a maximum pre- centrifugation time of 5 days @ 2- 25°C. Centrifuged PPT vacutainers can be can be stored for 14 days @ 2-8°C. | Sample storage requirements must not be exceeded. |
|  | If PPT centrifuged within 48 hours |  |

1 For the small proportion of samples for which the samples exceed the recommended sample storage times/conditions, NMRU will consider whether testing can be performed on a case-by-case basis

2 Unless otherwise stated, all separated plasma and serum samples may be stored indefinitely at <= -20C prior to testing

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|  | samples can be stored for a maximum of 7 days @ 2-25°C.  Samples collected in EDTA vacutainers samples can be stored for a maximum of 7 days  @ 2-25°C. |  |
| SNBTS **HCV, HIV, HBV, HEV**  in-house NAT for cells | 20uL of cell suspension (either storage medium or sterile PBS) containing 2 x 105 cells for each NAT test | Shipped on dry ice. |
| **Serological Tests – Screening** | | |
| Abbott PRISM (HBsAg, HCV Ab, HIV Ag/Ab, HTLV Ab) | Samples must be centrifuged prior to testing. All samples must be tested or retested within 24 hours of initial centrifugation; after 24 hours samples need to be re- centrifuged. | Specimens may be shipped  under ambient conditions, refrigerated on wet ice (2 - 8°C), or frozen on dry ice (-10°C or colder). Prior to freezing, the specimen should be removed from the clot or red cells. |
|  | Up to 14 days on cells @ 2-8C (If storage period >14 days serum or plasma should be removed from the clot or red blood cells) |  |
|  | Samples may be stored frozen (<20C) prior to testing |  |
| Abbott Architect (Syphilis) | Serum  Room temperature ≤ 72 hours; 2- 8°C ≤ 7 days  Plasma  Room temperature ≤ 72 hours; 2- 8°C ≤ 30 days |  |
| Abbott Architect (CMV IgM) | Serum /plasma ≤ 14 days @ 2- 8°C |  |
| Abbott Alinity s (HBsAg, HCV Ab, HIV Ag/Ab, Syphilis, HTLV Ab, HBc Ab) | Samples must be centrifuged prior to testing. All samples must be tested or retested within 48 hours of initial centrifugation; after 48 hours samples need to be re- centrifuged.  up to 7 days on or off cells @15- 30C  up to 14 days on or off cells @ 2- 8C | Specimens may be shipped  under ambient conditions, refrigerated on wet ice (2 - 8°C), or frozen on dry ice (-10°C or colder).  Storage at a combination of 15 - 30°C and 2 - 8°C may not exceed 14 days (inclusive of shipping time).  Prior to freezing, the specimen should be removed from the clot or red cells. |
|  | Samples may be stored frozen (<20C) prior to testing for up to 3 months. |  |
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| **Serological tests – NMRU1,**[**2**](#_bookmark1) | | |
| HBsAg, HIV Ag/Ab, HCV Ab,  HTLV Ab, Syphilis Ab, HEV Ab, HBc Ab, HBs Ab, Malaria Ab | 7 days @ 2-8°C  Serum and plasma samples for confirmatory testing should be centrifuged and separated from red cells prior to sending to NMRU. | Samples may be shipped between 2- 25C if either freshly collected OR previously stored at 2-8C OR previously stored frozen.  If shipping is longer than 24 hours, temperature controlled shipping (2-8C or frozen on dry ice as appropriate) is recommended. |
|  |  | Sample storage requirements should not be exceeded. |

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