

**NATF 1552 03**(relates to SOP NATS NMRU 072, NATS NMRU 120,
TCATS CORE 014)

**SNBTS Microbiology Testing – Sample Type,
Volume, Storage, Transport Requirements and
Expected Turnaround Times**

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) <i>IFU: 08092613001</i> <i>Rev. 5.0</i> <i>2021-05</i> Roche Cobas WNV RNA <i>IFU: 07175442001</i> <i>Rev. 9.0</i> <i>2022-04</i>	Samples collected in PPT, plasma or serum clot 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) 12 days @ 2-8°C for samples collected pre-mortem 30 days @ <-18°C for samples collected pre-mortem (PPT, serum) and if plasma separated from cells; 3 free/thaw cycles permitted Other than noted store samples at 2-8°C. 12 months @ <-18°C for samples collected pre-mortem (EDTA plasma) and if plasma separated from cells; 3 free/thaw cycles permitted	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. Sample storage requirements should not be exceeded or may produce unreliable results
Grifols Procleix HEV RNA <i>IFU: 504513 Rev. 007</i> <i>2021-11</i>	Samples collected in PPT, EDTA plasma or serum 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). Other than noted store samples at 2-8°C. Plasma separated from the cells may be stored for up to 6 months at ≤ -20°C before testing 13 days @ 2-8°C for samples collected pre-mortem	
SNBTS HCV, HIV, HBV, HEV, WNV, SARS-CoV-2, CMV NAT assays for blood samples ¹	Ideally plasma or serum samples should be centrifuged, separated and frozen prior to sending to NMRU ² . 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	

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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	<p>can be stored for 14 days @ 2-8°C.</p> <p>If PPT centrifuged within 48 hours samples can be stored for a maximum of 7 days @ 2-25°C.</p> <p>Samples collected in EDTA vacutainers samples can be stored for a maximum of 7 days @ 2-25°C</p>	
<p>SNBTS HCV, HIV, HBV, HEV in-house NAT for cells</p>	<p>20uL of cell suspension (either storage medium or sterile PBS) containing 2 x 10⁵ cells for each NAT test</p>	<p>Shipped on dry ice.</p>
<p>Serological Tests – Screening</p>		
<p>Abbott Alinity s (HBsAg, HCV Ab, HIV Ag/Ab, Syphilis, HTLV Ab, HBc Ab, CMV IgG Ab, HBsAg confirmatory)</p> <p><i>IFUs:</i> 04W5656 new 06P0155 Rev 2021-04 06P0255 Rev 2020-03 06P0955 Rev 2020-05 06P0755 Rev 2020-04 06P0655 Rev 2020-04 06P1045 Rev 2020-05 06P0357 Rev 2020-03 2470-29 Rev 2015-01</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Serum/plasma up to 7 days on or off cells @ 15-30°C</p> <p>Serum/plasma up to 14 days on or off cells @ 2-8°C</p> <p>Samples may be stored frozen (<20°C) prior to testing for up to 12 months (3 months for CMV).</p>	<p>Specimens may be shipped under ambient conditions, refrigerated on wet ice (2 - 8°C), or frozen on dry ice (-10°C or colder).</p> <p>Storage at a combination of 15 - 30°C and 2 - 8°C may not exceed 14 days (inclusive of shipping time).</p> <p>Prior to freezing, the specimen should be removed from the clot or red cells.</p>
<p>Serological tests – NMRU^{1,2}</p>		
<p>HBsAg, HIV Ag/Ab, HCV Ab, HTLV Ab, Syphilis Ab, HEV Ab, HBc Ab, HBs Ab, Malaria Ab, <i>T.cruzi</i> Ab, SARS-CoV-2 Ab, Toxoplasma Ab, CMV Ab</p>	<p>7 days @ 2-8°C</p> <p>Serum and plasma samples for confirmatory testing should be centrifuged and separated from red cells prior to sending to NMRU.</p>	<p>Samples may be shipped between 2-25°C if either freshly collected OR previously stored at 2-8°C OR previously stored frozen.</p> <p>If shipping is longer than 24 hours, temperature-controlled shipping (2-8°C or frozen on dry ice as appropriate) is recommended.</p> <p>Sample storage requirements should not be exceeded.</p>

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Preferred and alternative sample types, minimum sample volumes and expected turnaround times					
Test Type	Preferred Tube³	Other Tubes	Required Volume	Turnaround Time	
				Refer by	Results due by
Automated NAT	PPT	EDTA	6mL whole blood ⁴	07:00	15:00 (Mon-Fri & Sun)
Automated Serology	Serum	PPT; EDTA	6mL whole blood ⁴	07:00	15:00 (Mon-Fri & Sun)
Automated ABO; RhD	EDTA	Serum (manual ABO)	6mL whole blood ⁴	07:00	15:00 (Mon-Fri & Sun)
NMRU Serology	Serum	PPT; EDTA Plasma	2mL separated serum or plasma	Any	7-14 days
				06:30 ⁵	24 hrs ⁵
NMRU NAT	PPT; EDTA Plasma; Serum	Any except heparinised	1mL separated serum or plasma for each NAT test ⁶	Any	7-14 days
				06:30 ⁵	24 hrs ⁵

For detailed information on NMRU sample acceptance criteria refer to the latest version of NATS NMRU 120.

³ Vacutainers should be filled (two full volume vacutainers preferable to three short volume vacutainers)

⁴ Less than full sample set will be inspected for suitability and referred to NMRU if required

⁵ Urgent samples only e.g. islet, priority stem cell sample

⁶ Shorter volume can be tested but this will reduce the sensitivity of the NAT test