HIV/HBV/HCV Viral Load Testing Specimen Collection & Separation

Sample collection
Two 4.0ml whole blood EDTA tubes are required per test. The samples should only be taken Mon-Fri and must be received by Virology during working hours before 1630 hours.

Do not share for other tests. The unseparated sample must be received by Virology CHL within 20 hours of collection if held at 2-8C or 5 hours if held at ambient temperature. If these conditions cannot be met the plasma should be separated. Minimum volume of separated sample required is 2ml.

Transport/separation instructions for requesting laboratory

Whole blood EDTA samples to be received by Virology within 20 hours of collection (Stored at 2-8°C), Monday to Friday before 16:30 for separation

YES
Send to Virology, CHL at 2-8°C

NO
Plasma must be separated within 20 hours.

Centrifuge at 800-1600xg (rcf) or 3500rpm for 20 minutes at room temperature.

In a biohazard cabinet: Transfer plasma aseptically using sterile pipettes provided into a yellow topped Serology tube supplied by CHLabs. Half fill the tube. Wear gloves at all times.

On request form include:
- Time collected
- Time separated
- Anticoagulant used

Label tube with:
- Patients surname
- Lab number
- Date of collection

Will separated sample be sent to and received by Virology CHL within 72 hours (Stored at 2-8°C)

YES
Do not freeze. Seal and package sample according to transport regulations. Forward to Virology, CHL. Transport at 2-8°C.

NO
Freeze sample at -70°C. Forward frozen plasma sample on dry ice or with a frozen pink ice container according to transport.