



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

1220 Jefferson St Laurel, MS 39440- 601-426-4560

P&P SPT. LS. 2011.01.21
Reviewed 2020.01.31
Updated 2021.05.25
Reviewed 2023.11.13
Revised 2024.09.09 by
Amanda Fleming
Revised 2024.09.23
Revised by Amanda Fleming
2025.04/08

Page 1 of 46

SCRMC MAIN LAB SPECIMEN GUIDELINES

Specimen Labeling –all specimens should be labeled with the patient’s name, DOB and MRN number. A hospital label can be used on the specimen if available. . Documentation is needed of initials of person collecting the sample, time and date. This can be electronic or manual.

ABG’s: See Blood Gases (Arterial) with or without Base Excess

ABO BLOOD GROUP

Specimen Requirement: One pink top tube, can use 5 ml purple for cord blood. (*Do not use SST (marble).*)

Minimum Volume: 1 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

ACETAMINOPHEN (TYLENOL)

See Tylenol

ACID FAST CULTURE/AFB Stains (AFB - ACID FAST BACILLI)

Specimen Requirement: TB-Tuberculosis: *An acid fast smear always accompanies an acid fast culture.* There is an examination of the direct specimen and the concentrate. Acid Fast Stain and fluorescent stains are performed.

All specimens are to be collected in sealed leak-proof containers. Lids should be tightly sealed, and there should be no external spillage or contamination. Place container into a sealed plastic bag and deliver to Lab promptly. If delivery is delayed, refrigerate specimen.

Smear results are reported as soon as possible. Positive smear results are called to nursing service personnel and Infection Control. Concentrated specimen with positive smears are sent to State Lab for DNA probe. Results are generally available within a few days. Negative cultures are reported at the end of eight weeks.

Sputum: Collect at least 5 cc preferably first morning specimen collected in a sterile container. Sputum should be a deep cough specimen. A nonproductive cough produces only saliva, which is useless.

SCRMC LAB SPECIMEN GUIDELINES

Gastric Contents: Stomach contents are aspirated, stomach is flushed with saline and again aspirated. Both specimens should be submitted.

Bronchial Washings: Collected surgically.

Urine: Submit entire first morning specimen, which is more satisfactory than an aliquot of a 24-hour specimen.

Tissue: Specimen should be sent in saline **not** formalin or any other preservative and should be transported to the Lab immediately.

CSF: Due to the small number of acid fast bacilli found in CSF, at least 10 mL of CSF is required. All specimens are to be labeled with the patient's name, hospital number, room number, source, time of collection, and collector's initials.

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: Negative cultures are reported at the end of eight weeks.

ACTIVATED PARTIAL THROMBOPLASTIN TIME (APTT)/APTT Mixing Study

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml blue top (let pull to capacity); fresh - must be run within 4 hours of collection.

Minimum Volume: 1.8 blue top tube (fill to capacity)

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

ALBUMIN, SERUM

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

ALCOHOL, BLOOD

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Use sterile H₂O to cleanse area for venipuncture (or aqueous iodine prep); use **no alcohol**.

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 day

ALKALINE PHOSPHATASE, SERUM

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

1220 Jefferson St Laurel, MS 39440- 601-426-4560

P&P SPT. LS. 2011.01.21
Reviewed 2020.01.31
Updated 2021.05.25
Reviewed 2023.11.13
Revised 2024.09.09 by
Amanda Fleming
Revised 2024.09.23
Revised by Amanda Fleming
2025.04/08

Page 1 of 46

**ALT SGPT ALT (ALANINE
TRANSAMINASE, GPT)**

AMMONIA, BLOOD

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top; place in ice immediately; separate plasma within 20 minutes

Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood

Patient Preparation: Draw without using a tourniquet

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

Note: Blood ammonia increased 5%/minute between drawing specimen and freezing.

AMPHETAMINES

For Screening, see Drug Screen.

AMYLASE, SERUM

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

AMYLASE, FLUIDS

Specimen Requirement: Body fluids except for urine

Minimum Volume: 2 ml fluid

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

AMYLASE, RANDOM URINE

Specimen Requirement: Random urine collection

Minimum Volume: 2 ml urine

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

SCRMC LAB SPECIMEN GUIDELINES

ANTIBODY ID PANEL

Specimen Requirement: One EDTA pink top tube. *Do not use SST (marble) tube.*

Minimum Volume: 5 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

ANTIBODY SCREEN GEL (INDIRECT COMBS)

See Type and Screen

APTT - See Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time

ASPIRIN, SERUM

See Salicylate

AST See SGOT AST (ASPARTATE TRANSAMINASE, GOT)

B12 (Vitamin B 12)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

BARBITURATES

For Screening, see Drug Screen.

BASIC METABOLIC PANEL (BMP, CHEM 8)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood

Patient Preparation: Fasting

Turnaround Time: 1 Day or STAT

BENZODIAZEPINES

For Screening, see Drug Screen.

BET HYDROXBUTYRATE (BHB-Ketone)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or 8 ml SST (Mable)

Minimum Volume: 2 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

1220 Jefferson St Laurel, MS 39440- 601-426-4560

P&P SPT. LS. 2011.01.21
Reviewed 2020.01.31
Updated 2021.05.25
Reviewed 2023.11.13
Revised 2024.09.09 by
Amanda Fleming
Revised 2024.09.23
Revised by Amanda Fleming
2025.04/08

Page 1 of 46

BILIRUBIN DIRECT

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble), protect from light

Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

BILIRUBIN NEONATAL

Specimen Requirement: One Green top microtainer, fill tube to top of frosted portion, approximately 500 µl

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

BILIRUBIN TOTAL

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble), protect from light

Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

BLEEDING TIME

Specimen Requirement: Special procedure.

Minimum Volume:

Patient Preparation: This test must be performed by a Tech.

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

BLOOD SMEAR REVIEW

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml purple top with smears, patient's age, CBC results. Test to be interpreted by pathologist.

Minimum Volume: Non-applicable

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

SCRMC LAB SPECIMEN GUIDELINES

BLOOD CULTURES

Specimen Requirement: Two (2) blood culture bottles are drawn with each request. One is for aerobic microorganisms and one for anaerobic microorganisms. If patient is on antibiotics, draw appropriate antibiotic bottle. The site for venipuncture is carefully cleaned with a scrub kit. This prevents contamination of the blood culture. A preliminary report is sent after full 24 hours of incubation, if no growth occurs. If there is no growth after 24 hours, the cultures are held 5 days before reporting as negative. *Positive blood cultures are called immediately upon discovery.* (Checked every ten minutes by automation.) Use the PF pediatric bottle for children and the FA if the patient is already on antibiotics.

Blood cultures may be drawn in a syringe, if the patient site preparation is adhered to and the transfer of the blood to blood culture media is done aseptically.

Minimum Volume: At least 5 ml blood per bottle for adult and 2 ml blood for children per culture request.

Patient Preparation: Scrub appropriately with scrub kit

Turnaround Time: 5 days, if negative and if positive, immediately upon growth noted.

BLOOD GASES with or without Base Excess (ARTERIAL)

Specimen Requirement: Not less than 1 ml heparinized. (Anaerobically) Keep on ice.

Minimum Volume: 1 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: STAT

BLOOD GASES (VENOUS)

Specimen Requirement: One full 4 ml draw heparinized tube (green top). Keep on ice

Minimum Volume: 4 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: STAT

BNP (B. NATRIURETIC PEPTIDE)

Specimen Requirement: One purple top tube

Minimum Volume: 1 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: STAT

BODY FLUIDS Crystals

Specimen Requirement: Fresh fluid brought immediately to lab or in purple tube

(Joint fluids will clot quickly put in EDTA (purple))

Minimum Volume: 1 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turn Around Time: 1 Day



**SOUTH CENTRAL
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**

1220 Jefferson St Laurel, MS 39440- 601-426-4560

P&P SPT. LS. 2011.01.21
Reviewed 2020.01.31
Updated 2021.05.25
Reviewed 2023.11.13
Revised 2024.09.09 by
Amanda Fleming
Revised 2024.09.23
Revised by Amanda Fleming
2025.04/08

Page 1 of 46

BODY FLUIDS (PLEURAL, KNEE, Bron Wash ETC) COUNT AND DIFFERENTIAL

Specimen Requirement: Fresh fluid brought immediately to the Lab in syringe or sterile container or placed in EDTA (purple) tube.

Minimum Volume: 1 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

BONE MARROW

Specimen Requirement: Dependent upon orders of physician performing bone marrow.

Minimum Volume: See kit instructions.

Patient Preparation: Patient must sign consent form for bone marrow to be performed.

Turnaround Time: 1 Day after collection

Note: Check with Histology Department

BUN (Urea Nitrogen)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

BUPRENORPHINE

For screening, see Drug Screen

CALCIUM, SERUM

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

SCRCM LAB SPECIMEN GUIDELINES

CALCIUM, IONIZED

Specimen Requirement: One full 4 ml green top or heparinized blood in syringe on ICE

Minimum Volume: Green top 4 mls or 1 ml blood in Heparinized syringe on ICE

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Hour

NOTE: Anaerobic test, green tube must be full with the less about of air space as possible, vacuum intact. Air causes a loss of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere and will affect results.

CARBAMAZEPINE (TEGRETOL)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

CARBOXYHEMOBLOBIN

Specimen Requirement: 4 ml green top tube on ice.

Minimum Volume: 2 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

CBC (COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml purple top (EDTA) tube or purple microtainer

Minimum Volume: 250 μ l (microtainer)

Patient Preparation: NonE

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

CEA

Specimen Requirement: One SST tube (Marble)

Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day



**SOUTH CENTRAL
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**

1220 Jefferson St Laurel, MS 39440- 601-426-4560

P&P SPT. LS. 2011.01.21
Reviewed 2020.01.31
Updated 2021.05.25
Reviewed 2023.11.13
Revised 2024.09.09 by
Amanda Fleming
Revised 2024.09.23
Revised by Amanda Fleming
2025.04/08

Page 1 of 46

CELL BLOCK

Specimen Requirement: Collect in sterile container. Path: spin body fluids down and use sediment as cell block.

Minimum Volume: NA

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: See Path

CELL COUNT & DIFF

See BODY FLUIDS (PLEURAL, KNEE, Bron Wash ETC) COUNT AND DIFFERENTIAL or for blood see CBC

CHEMISTRY PANEL BASIC METABOLIC (BMP, CHEM 8)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: Fasting (can order non-fasting- please document)

Turnaround Time: 1 Day or STAT

CHEMISTRY PANEL COMPREHENSIVE (CMP, CHEM 14)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: Fasting-Doctor can order non-fasting (this comment should be noted on request slip)

Turnaround Time: 1 Day or STAT

CHLORIDE, CSF

Specimen Requirement: Spinal fluid or other body fluid

Minimum Volume: 0.5 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

CHLORIDE, SERUM

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

SCRMC LAB SPECIMEN GUIDELINES

CHLORIDE, RANDOM URINE

Specimen Requirement: Random urine specimen. No expected normal range for random specimens.
Minimum Volume: 2 ml urine
Patient Preparation: None
Turnaround Time: 1 Day

CHOLESTEROL, TOTAL

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)
Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood
Patient Preparation: None
Turnaround Time: 1 Day

CK-MB ONLY (CREATINE PHOSPHOKINASE MB FRACTION ONLY)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top. *Do not use microtainer.*
Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood
Patient Preparation: None
Turnaround Time: 1 Day

CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE MOLECULAR (DNA amplification assay- Illumigene)

Direct detection of toxigenic *C. difficile* in human stool from pediatric and adult Patients with have diarrheal suspected of having Clostridium difficile-associated disease (CDAD). Assay utilizes loop-mediated isothermal DNA amplification (LAMP) technology to detect the pathogenicity locus of toxigenic Clostridium difficile. Tests for both Toxin A gene and the Toxin B gene.

Limitations: Does not distinguish viable and non-viable organisms. Must use patient clinical evaluation and other diagnostic procedures. Only unformed stool specimens to be tested. Colonization rates up to 50% and higher reported in infants and rates up to 32% cystic fibrosis patients. Does not differentiate the NAP1 strain from other toxigenic strains of *C. difficile*. Failure to follow instructions for collection, handling and preparations may cause incorrect results. Consent are signed upon admissions. Pathologist or Micro Tech can be consulted for information, interpretation and implication of results. (601-426-4560)

Specimen Requirement: Fresh stool. Specimen must be received *FRESH* in lab.
Minimum Volume: 1 ml liquid specimen.
Patient Preparation: Random stool- **Do not scrape off diaper or diaper pad.**
Turnaround Time: 1 Day

Collections- Unpreserved human stool transported and stored at 2-8°C Specimens tested as soon as possible, may be held up to 24hrs at 21-27 C or 5 days 2-8C. Past 5 days frozen and thawed once, (20). Preserved in Cary-Blair-based media same as Unpreserved expected frozen immediately for up to seven days.



**SOUTH CENTRAL
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**

1220 Jefferson St Laurel, MS 39440- 601-426-4560

P&P SPT. LS. 2011.01.21
Reviewed 2020.01.31
Updated 2021.05.25
Reviewed 2023.11.13
Revised 2024.09.09 by
Amanda Fleming
Revised 2024.09.23
Revised by Amanda Fleming
2025.04/08

Page 1 of 46

CO2C

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8 ml SST (Marble)

Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

COCAINE

For Screening, see Drug Screen.

COMBS, DIRECT

Specimen Requirement: One pink top tube or one 4 ml purple (EDTA).

Minimum Volume: 3 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

COMBS, INDIRECT (ANTIBODY SCREEN)

Specimen Requirement: One pink top tube. *Do not use SST (marble).*

Minimum Volume: 3 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

COMPREHENSIVE METABOLIC PANEL

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: Fasting - Doctor can order non-fasting this comment should be noted on request slip) **Turnaround Time:** 1 Day or STAT

CORTISOL, AM, PM, BASELINE, STIMULAT

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

CoVID- 19 (See SARS- CoV-2)

SCRMC LAB SPECIMEN GUIDELINES

CPK SERUM (CREATINE PHOSPHOKINASE, CREATINE KINASE, CK, CPK)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

(Do not use microtainer.)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

CRP (C-REACTIVE PROTEIN QUANTITATIVE- High Sensitive)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

CREATININE, 24 HR URINE

Specimen Requirement: 24 hr urine

Minimum Volume: 2 ml aliquot

Patient Prep: None

TAT: 1 Day

CREATININE, BODY FLUIDS

Specimen Requirement: Body fluids

Minimum Volume: 2 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

CREATININE CLEARANCE

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble) and a 24 hour urine collection
Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood and a 24 hour urine collection

Patient Preparation: Avoid cephalosporin. If possible, drugs should be stopped beforehand. Have patient drink water before the clearance is begun and continue good hydration throughout the clearance. A meat free diet is recommended.

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

CREATININE, RANDOM URINE

Specimen Requirement: Random urine specimen

Minimum Volume: 2 ml urine

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day



**SOUTH CENTRAL
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**

1220 Jefferson St Laurel, MS 39440- 601-426-4560

P&P SPT. LS. 2011.01.21
Reviewed 2020.01.31
Updated 2021.05.25
Reviewed 2023.11.13
Revised 2024.09.09 by
Amanda Fleming
Revised 2024.09.23
Revised by Amanda Fleming
2025.04/08

Page 1 of 46

CREATININE, SERUM

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

CROSS MATCH (SEE INDENT-A-BLOOD SYSTEM SECTION OF MANUAL)

Specimen Requirement: One pink top tube. *Do not use SST (marble) tube.*

Minimum Volume: 1 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

CRYPTOSPORIDIUM ANTIGEN

Specimen Requirement: Fresh stool

Minimum Volume: 1 ml liquid stool or 1 gm

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

Collection: Collected in clean, leak-proof plastic containers. May collect in SAF, 10% formalin, MIF, CaryBlair,

C&S or Stuart's transport media. PVA not suitable. Solid, semisolid, or liquid stool are acceptable.

CULTURE, BLOOD

SEE BLOOD CULTURE

CULTURE, FUNGUS

SEE FUNGUS CULTURE

CULTURE, GROUP B COLONI

Specimen Requirement: One aerobic swab

Minimum Volume: 1 culture swab **Patient**

Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: Preliminary report in 24 hours, final in 48 hours (in most cases).

SCRMC LAB SPECIMEN GUIDELINES

CULTURE, MRSA

Specimen Requirement: One aerobic swab.

Minimum Volume: 1 culture swab **Patient**

Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: Preliminary report in 24 hours, final in 48 hours (in most cases).

CULTURE, Routine Other

Specimen Requirement: Dependent upon source

One aerobic swab

One anaerobic swab is possibility of anaerobes

Minimum Volume: 1 culture swab &/or anaerobic swab

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: Preliminary report in 24 hours, final in 48 hours (in most cases).

CULTURE, Throat

Specimen Requirement: One aerobic swab

Minimum Volume: 1 culture swab **Patient**

Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: Preliminary report in 24 hours, final in 48 hours (in most cases).

CULTURE, STOOL

Specimen Requirement: Random Stool or one culture swab.

Minimum Volume: 1 culture swab

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: Preliminary report in 24 hours, final in 48 hours (in most cases).

CULTURE, URINE

Specimen Requirement: Clean Catch Urine or Cath

Minimum Volume: 1 ml urine

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: Preliminary report in 24 hours, final in 48 hours (in most cases).

CULTURE, VRE

Specimen Requirement: One aerobic swab.

Minimum Volume: 1 culture swab

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: Preliminary report in 24 hours, final in 48 hours (in most cases).



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

1220 Jefferson St Laurel, MS 39440- 601-426-4560

P&P SPT. LS. 2011.01.21
Reviewed 2020.01.31
Updated 2021.05.25
Reviewed 2023.11.13
Revised 2024.09.09 by
Amanda Fleming
Revised 2024.09.23
Revised by Amanda Fleming
2025.04/08

Page 1 of 46

CULTURE- MISCELLANEOUS BACTERIOLOGY

Routine cultures are performed on any source suspected of bacterial infection. Proper collection is extremely important.

Culture swabs should be collected from the red, inflamed or draining area, avoiding the surrounding area which often contains contaminating normal bacteria.

All swabs should be placed in transport media immediately after the site has been swabbed. This is done by either breaking the ampule in the bottom of the collection tube or by pushing the swab down into the media at the bottom of the tube, depending on the type of swab used.

Other specimens should be collected in dry, sterile containers.

Urine specimens should be catheterized or clean catch midstream. Voided specimens should not be sent.

Blood cultures are to be collected only by personnel who have been instructed in the proper collection of these specimens. Sputum specimens should be early morning, deep cough, if possible. These specimens should not contain saliva.

Certain specimens, such as various fluids, CSF, cervix, etc., should only be collected by a physician or nurse practitioner. All specimens should be transported to the lab as soon as collected. If delivery is delayed, the specimen should be refrigerated.

Any dry swab or inadequate specimen will be rejected, and a new specimen requested. Specimen lids should be secured tightly. Outside of containers should not be contaminated. Specimens should be placed in a biohazard bag and sealed.

A gram stain is to be ordered with all wound cultures and sputums

A colony count is performed on all urine specimens exhibiting growth.

Any source that can possibly be infected with anaerobic bacteria is cultured for these organisms when a routine culture is ordered. An anaerobic swab should be collected along with an aerobic swab for all wound specimens.

Genital sources are always cultured for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (GC). Gram stains on genital specimens are performed only if requested by the physician.

Stools are routinely cultured for *Salmonella*, *Shigella*, *Yersinia*, *Campylobacter*, *E. Coli* 157, Shiga ToxinA+B and any other predominant gram negative rod.

Critical values - positive blood and CSF cultures - are phoned to nursing service personnel immediately upon discovery.

Preliminary reports for nonpathogenic growth are sent at 24-36 hours or as soon as pathogenic growth is detected.

Final reports are sent at 48-60 hours or as soon as completed, if prior to this. CSF and blood culture final reports are sent in five days.

Only a final report is sent for Strep Screens as soon as adequate growth occurs.

All specimens should be labeled with patient's name, hospital number, room number, source, time of collection and collector's initials.

SCRMC LAB SPECIMEN GUIDELINES

CYTOLOGY, PATHOLOGY

Specimen Requirement: Pap Smear (GYN) - place in 95% alcohol on glass slides, back to back.

Minimum Volume: N/A

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 2 working days

Specimen Requirement: Pap Smear (NON-GYN) Body Fluids - Send fresh to laboratory. (If unable to process, place in the refrigerator.)

Minimum Volume: NA

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 2 working days

D-DIMER

Specimen Requirement: One 4.5 ml blue top tube.

Minimum Volume: 1.8 ml tube

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

DEPAKENE (VALPROIC ACID)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble).

Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

DIGOXIN

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

DILANTIN (PHEYTOIN)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day



**SOUTH CENTRAL
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**

1220 Jefferson St Laurel, MS 39440- 601-426-4560

P&P SPT. LS. 2011.01.21
Reviewed 2020.01.31
Updated 2021.05.25
Reviewed 2023.11.13
Revised 2024.09.09 by
Amanda Fleming
Revised 2024.09.23
Revised by Amanda Fleming
2025.04/08

Page 1 of 46

DRUG SCREEN (Urine Drug Screen done in-house includes: opiates, amphetamine, barbiturate, cocaine, benzodiazepine, PCP, THC, Tricyclic Antidepressants, methadone and Methamphetamines, Oxycodone, Buprenorphine)

Specimen Requirement: 10 ml urine for in-house and 50 ml urine for reference laboratory **Minimum**

Volume: 10 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

DRUG SCREEN COMPREHENSIVE

Sent to reference lab.

DU FACTOR

Specimen Requirement: One pink top tube.

Minimum Volume: 1 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

EOSINOPHIL COUNT

(SWAB OR SPUTUM)

Specimen Requirement: Nasal/eye swab or fresh sputum. Specimen must be received in the laboratory within one hour of collection. State source.

Minimum Volume: One swab or 1 ml sputum

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

ESR

See SED RATE, WESTERGREIN (ESR)

FECAL CULTURE

See Culture, Stool

SCRMC LAB SPECIMEN GUIDELINES

FECAL LEUKOCYTES

Specimen Requirement: Random stool
Minimum Volume: 1ml or 1 gm
Patient Preparation: None
Turnaround Time: 1 Day

FECAL OCCULT BLOOD

Specimen Requirement: Random Stool
Minimum Volume: 1 ml or 1 gm
Patient Preparation: None
Turnaround Time: 1 Day

FECAL pH

Specimen Requirement: Random Stool
Minimum Volume: 1 ml or 1 gm
Patient Preparation: None
Turnaround Time: 1 Day

FECAL REDUCING SUBSTANCES

Specimen Requirement: Random Stool
Minimum Volume: 1 ml or 1 gm
Patient Preparation: None
Turnaround Time: 1 Day

FERRITIN

Specimen Requirement: One 8.5 ml SST tube (marble) or one 4 ml green top
Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood
Patient Preparation: None
Turnaround Time: 1 Day

FIBRINOGEN

Specimen Requirement: One 4.5 ml sodium citrate blue top. Let draw to capacity.
Minimum Volume: 1.8 ml blue top (filled to capacity).
Patient Preparation: None
Turnaround Time: 1 Day



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

1220 Jefferson St Laurel, MS 39440- 601-426-4560

P&P SPT. LS. 2011.01.21
Reviewed 2020.01.31
Updated 2021.05.25
Reviewed 2023.11.13
Revised 2024.09.09 by
Amanda Fleming
Revised 2024.09.23
Revised by Amanda Fleming
2025.04/08

Page 1 of 46

FOLATE

Specimen Requirement: One 8.5 ml SST tube (marble) or one 4 ml green top

Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

FREE T4

Specimen Requirement: One 8.5 ml SST tube (marble) or one 4 ml green top

Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

FRESH FROZEN PLASMA (FFP) [See Ident-A-Blood System Section of Manual]

Specimen Requirement: One pink top tube. *Do not use SST tube.*

Minimum Volume: 1ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

FROZEN SECTION

Specimen Requirement: Surgery specimen; fresh (no formalin).

Minimum Volume: NA

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: STAT

FUNGUS CULTURE

All specimens are to be collected in sealed leakproof containers. Lids should be tightly sealed, and there should be no external spillage or contamination. Place container into a sealed biohazard bag and deliver to Lab promptly. If delivery is delayed, refrigerated specimen.

Negative cultures are reported at the end of a maximum 6 weeks.

Sputum: Preferably first morning deep cough.

Bronchial Washing: Collected surgically.

CSF: Collected aseptically by physician.

Skin scrapings, nail clippings, hair: Place into a dry, clean specimen cup or envelope.

Tissue: Specimen should be sent in saline.

SCRMC LAB SPECIMEN GUIDELINES

Blood: See Blood Culture- Fungus and bacteria culture can be processed together

Be sure to order fungus culture

Urine: Preferably first morning, cath or clean catch specimen.

Throat, wound, etc: Swab inflamed area, break ampule in bottom of swab - dry swab will be rejected.

All specimens are to be labeled with the patient's name, hospital number, room number, source, time of collection, and collector's initials.

GAMMA G T

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

GASTRIC OCCULT BLOOD

Specimen Requirement: Gastric contents

Minimum Volume: 1 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

GENTAMYCIN (GARAMYCIN), Peak,

Trough or Random

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble). Peak, Trough and Random: Per protocol.

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

GFR (GLOMERULAR FILTRATION RATE)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

1220 Jefferson St Laurel, MS 39440- 601-426-4560

P&P SPT. LS. 2011.01.21
Reviewed 2020.01.31
Updated 2021.05.25
Reviewed 2023.11.13
Revised 2024.09.09 by
Amanda Fleming
Revised 2024.09.23
Revised by Amanda Fleming
2025.04/08

Page 1 of 46

GIARDIA ANTIGEN

Specimen Requirement: Fresh stool collected in clean, leak-proof plastic containers.

May collect in SAF, 10% formalin, MIF, Cary-Blair, C&S or Stuart's transport media. PVA not suitable.

Fresh samples and Stuart's media should be tested as soon as possible. If not specimens should be refrigerated or frozen. Can only thaw once.

Minimum Volume: Solid, semi-solid, or liquid stool are acceptable 1 ml or gm.

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

GLUCOSE (Specific: (1) fasting, (2) post prandial, (3) special time:

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble) **Minimum Volume:** 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: (1) Fasting; (2) Specify after meal or Glucola and time; (3) No preparation; specify time. **Turnaround Time:** 1 Day

GLUCOSE, NON-FASTING

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

GLUCOSE TOLERANCE TEST - BLOOD AND URINE

Specimen Requirement: Collect fasting blood (green top or marble top) and urine samples. After Chemistry notifies you it is ok to proceed, give patient Glucola to drink. Record time patient *finishes* drinking Glucola; 30 minutes (label ½ hr) later, collect blood and urine specimens; 30 minutes later collect 1 hour sample, and every hour thereafter for duration of tolerance. Number of hours dependent on physician. If not specified, the routine is a 3-hour tolerance. Children under age 12 years- 1.75 grams of beverage per kilogram of body weight. (Limeondex Beverage contains 5 gms glucose/fl.oz)

(SunDex Beverage contains 10 gms glucose/fl.oz) **Minimum Volume:** 3 ml blood (1 ml urine)

Patient Preparation: Fasting

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

SCRMC LAB SPECIMEN GUIDELINES

GRAM STAIN

Specimen Requirement: Send specimen or swab in culture tube. Dry swabs will be rejected. **Minimum Volume:** NA
Patient Preparation: None
Turnaround Time: 1 Day

GROUP B STREP

Specimen Requirement: CSF 0.5 ml or one 8.5 ml SST (marble) tube. *Cannot use urine.*
Minimum Volume: CSF 0.5 ml, 1 ml serum
Patient Preparation: None
Turnaround Time: 1 Day

HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZA AG

Specimen Requirement: 1 ml CSF or 1 ml serum.
Minimum Volume: 1 ml CSF or 1 ml serum
Patient Preparation: None
Turnaround Time: 1 Day

HANSEL STAIN

Specimen Requirement: Fresh urine
Minimum Volume: 10 ml urine
Patient Preparation: None **Turnaround Time:** 1 Day

HCG, SERUM (QUAL)

Specimen Requirement: One 8.5 ml SST tube (marble) or red top
Minimum Volume: 1 ml
Patient Preparation: None
Turnaround Time: 1 Day

HCG, SERUM (QUAN)

Specimen Requirement: One 8.5 ml SST tube (marble) or green top tube
Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood
Patient Preparation: None
Turnaround Time: 1 Day



**SOUTH CENTRAL
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**

1220 Jefferson St Laurel, MS 39440- 601-426-4560

P&P SPT. LS. 2011.01.21
Reviewed 2020.01.31
Updated 2021.05.25
Reviewed 2023.11.13
Revised 2024.09.09 by
Amanda Fleming
Revised 2024.09.23
Revised by Amanda Fleming
2025.04/08

Page 1 of 46

HCG, URINE QUALITATIVE

Specimen Requirement: 1st A.M. urine >10 days after last missed period

Minimum Volume: 0.5 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

HEMATOCRIT

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml purple top or capillary (fingerstick) blood placed in an EDTA microtainer

(purple)

Minimum Volume: 250 µl (microtainer)

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: STAT

HEMATOLOGY EVALUATION CONSULT BY PATHOLOGIST

Specimen Requirement: Designated by Pathologist

Minimum Volume: NA

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

HEMOGLOBIN

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml purple top or capillary (fingerstick) blood placed in an EDTA microtainer

(purple)

Minimum Volume: 250 µl microtainer

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: STAT

HEMOGLOBIN A1C

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml purple top

Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

SCRMC LAB SPECIMEN GUIDELINES

HEPARIN ANTI-XA, LOVENOX

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml blue top (let pull to capacity); fresh - must be run within 4 hours of collection. Send to lab immediately.

Minimum Volume: 1.8 blue top tube (fill to capacity)

Patient Preparation: Draw 4 hours after the 3rd dose of heparin XA. Sample should be collected in extremity opposite where the heparin is being given.

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

HIV AB SCREEN

Specimen Requirement: One 8.5 ml SST (marble) tube or purple (EDTA)

Minimum Volume: 1 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

INDIA INK PREP

Specimen Requirement: For Cryptococcus neoformans. Fresh spinal fluid collected by physician.

Minimum Volume: 1 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

INFLUENZA A +B AG

Specimen Requirement: Flu swab from kit, Nasal Wash or Aspirate

Minimum Volume: One swab or 1 ml of wash or Aspirate **Specimen**

Requirement: Nasal Swab Sample: For proper test performance use the swabs supplied in the kit obtain from lab (one swab issued for each order). To collect a nasal swab sample, insert the sterile swab into the nostril that presents the most secretion under visual inspection. Using gentle rotation, push the swab until the resistance is met at the level of the turbinates (less than one inch into the nostril). Rotate the swab a few times against the nasal wall.

Nasal Wash or Aspirate Sample:

For Older Children and Adults: With the patient's head hyper-extended, instill about 2.5 mL of sterile, normal saline into one nostril with a syringe. To collect the wash, place a clean, dry specimen container directly under the nose with slight pressure on the upper lip. Tilt the head forward and allow the fluid to run out of the nostril into the specimen container. Repeat for the other nostril and collect the fluid into the sample specimen container.

For Younger Children: The child should sit in the parent's lap facing forward, with the child's back against the parent's chest. The parent should wrap one arm around the child in a manner that will restrain the child's body and arms. Fill an aspiration bulb or bulb syringe with up to 2.5 mL of sterile, normal saline (depending on the size of the child), and instill the saline into one nostril while the head is tilted back. Release the pressure on the bulb to aspirate the specimen back into the bulb. Transfer the specimen into a clean, dry specimen container. Repeat the process for the child's other nostril and transfer the specimen into the same specimen container. **Sample Transport and Storage:** Do not use any kind of transport media to store or transfer samples. Send to lab immediately. Must be complete within one hour of collection.



**SOUTH CENTRAL
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**

1220 Jefferson St Laurel, MS 39440- 601-426-4560

P&P SPT. LS. 2011.01.21
Reviewed 2020.01.31
Updated 2021.05.25
Reviewed 2023.11.13
Revised 2024.09.09 by
Amanda Fleming
Revised 2024.09.23
Revised by Amanda Fleming
2025.04/08

Page 1 of 46

IRON

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble); avoid hemolysis.

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

IRON BINDING CAPACITY (Order Transferrin Saturation)

Specimen Requirement: : One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)
avoid hemolysis.

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

INR- See Prothrombin Time

KETONES, (BHB), SERUM QUANT

Specimen Requirement: : One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1

KOH PREP

Specimen Requirement: Any source, except skin, hair, nail or CSF, suspected of fungal infection.

For CSF see India Ink prep dependent upon source; use sterile technique.

Minimum Volume: 1 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

KOH TISSUE

Specimen Requirement: Skin, hair or nail

Minimum Volume: NA

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

SCRMC LAB SPECIMEN GUIDELINES

LACTIC ACID

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml gray top on ice; must be received in laboratory within 15 minutes of collection

Minimum Volume: 2 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

LDH (LACTIC DEHYDROGENASE, LD)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble); avoid hemolysis; or one 4 ml green top

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

LEUKOCYTES, STOOL See FECAL LEUKOCYTES

LIPASE

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

LIPIDS: HDL, TRIG, CHOL

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: 12 hour fasting

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

LIVER (HEPATIC) FUNCTION PANEL

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day



**SOUTH CENTRAL
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**

1220 Jefferson St Laurel, MS 39440- 601-426-4560

P&P SPT. LS. 2011.01.21
Reviewed 2020.01.31
Updated 2021.05.25
Reviewed 2023.11.13
Revised 2024.09.09 by
Amanda Fleming
Revised 2024.09.23
Revised by Amanda Fleming
2025.04/08

Page 1 of 46

MAGNESIUM, BLOOD

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

MALARIA SMEARS

Specimen Requirement: Capillary (fingerstick) blood; two thick and two thin blood smears

Minimum Volume: NA

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

METHADONE

For Screening, see Drug Screen.

METHAMPHETAMINES

For Screening, see Drug Screen.

Micro Exam Arthropod

Specimen Requirement: Possible arthropod

Minimum Volume: At least one arthropod

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

MONO TEST

Specimen Requirement: One 8.5 ml SST top (marble) or one 4 ml purple top or one 4 ml green top

Minimum Volume: 1 ml (either tube)

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

SCRCM LAB SPECIMEN GUIDELINES

MRSA SCREEN

Specimen Requirement: One aerobic swab.

Minimum Volume: 1 culture swab

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: Preliminary report in 24 hours, final in 48 hours (in most cases).

MYCOPLASMA PNEUMONIAE SCREEN

Specimen Requirement: One 8.5 ml SST top (marble) tube.

Minimum Volume: 1 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

MYOGLOBIN, BLOOD

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top.

(Do not use microtainer.)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

NASAL OR EYE SWAB FOR EOSINOPHIL COUNT

Specimen Requirement: See Eosinophil Count

NEISSERIA MENINGITIDIS AG

Specimen Requirement: CSF, one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble).

Minimum Volume: 1 ml CSF, 1 ml serum.

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

OCCULT BLOOD, GASTRIC/VOMITUS

Specimen Requirement: Gastric aspirate or vomitus

Minimum Volume: 1 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

1220 Jefferson St Laurel, MS 39440- 601-426-4560

P&P SPT. LS. 2011.01.21
Reviewed 2020.01.31
Updated 2021.05.25
Reviewed 2023.11.13
Revised 2024.09.09 by
Amanda Fleming
Revised 2024.09.23
Revised by Amanda Fleming
2025.04/08

Page 1 of 46

OCCULT BLOOD, STOOL

Specimen Requirement: Random stool

Minimum Volume: 1 ml or 1 gm

Patient Preparation: High residue, meat-free diet starting 2 days before testing and continue through collection. Diet which include raw or cooked vegetables, fruit, moderate amounts of peanuts, popcorn and bran cereal daily, helps to minimize false positive reactions and also provides roughage to help uncover “silent” lesions. Small amounts of chicken or tuna fish allowed but red meat avoided. As well as foods containing peroxidase or peroxidase- like substances (turnips and horseradish) Tonic or Vitamin containing ascorbic acid will give false negative test results. Aspirin, steroids, rauwolfia, indomethacin and colchicine discontinued 2 days before. Patient may be tested without prior preparation of patient but if one or more tests are positive, the patient should be placed on diet and retested. **Turnaround Time:** 1 Day

OCCULT BLOOD, URINE

Specimen Requirement: Random urine

Minimum Volume: 1 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

OCP

See Ova, Cyst and Parasites

OPIATES For Screening, see Drug Screen.

OSMOLALITY, SERUM

Specimen Requirement: One 8.5 ml SST tube (marble).

Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

OSMOLALITY, URINE

Specimen Requirement: Random urine

Minimum Volume: 2 ml urine

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

SCRMC LAB SPECIMEN GUIDELINES

OVA, CYSTS, AND PARASITES (OCP)

Specimen Requirement: Stool specimen labeled with lid secured tightly to container. Outside of container should not be contaminated with specimen. Stools containing barium, oil, water or urine will be rejected. Deliver promptly. Stool should be tested within 3-4 hours of collection, if not possible refrigerated. Brushes should be processed as soon as possible. Except for liquid stools, fresh stools placed in fixative within one hour.

Minimum Volume: 2 ml or 2 gm

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

OXYCODONE For screening, see
Drug Screen

PAP SMEAR

Refer to Cytology

PCO2

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top tube or heparinized blood *on ice*. Tube must be properly filled. **Minimum Volume:** 4 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Hour

PCP (PHENCYCLIDINE)

For screening, see Drug Screen

pH, BLOOD

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top tube or heparinized blood *on ice*. Must be properly filled.

Minimum Volume: 4 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Hour

pH, FLUIDS

Specimen Requirement: Any body fluid

Minimum Volume: 2 ml fluid

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day



**SOUTH CENTRAL
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**

1220 Jefferson St Laurel, MS 39440- 601-426-4560

P&P SPT. LS. 2011.01.21
Reviewed 2020.01.31
Updated 2021.05.25
Reviewed 2023.11.13
Revised 2024.09.09 by
Amanda Fleming
Revised 2024.09.23
Revised by Amanda Fleming
2025.04/08

Page 1 of 46

PHENOBARBITAL, QUANTITATIVE

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

Phlebotomy

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml purple for CBC

Minimum Volume: 1 unit- Infusion Services performs outpatient therapeutic phlebotomy

Inpatients phlebotomy may be performed by Laboratory Tech Patient Preparation

or Infusion Services: None- nurse must monitor vital signs before and after procedure

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

PHOSPHATASE, ALKALINE

See Alkaline Phosphatase

PHOSPHORUS, BLOOD

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

PINWORM PREP

Specimen Requirement: Request pinworm paddle from Lab. Collect while child is asleep and still, preferably in early a.m. Apply sticky side of paddle to the anus and surrounding area. Place paddle back inside its container.

Minimum Volume: NA

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

SCRMC LAB SPECIMEN GUIDELINES

Plasma (FFP) See Fresh Frozen Plasma

PLATELET COUNT

Specimen Requirement: One 4 mL EDTA (purple) top or 1 purple microtainer.

Minimum Volume: 250 µl (microtainer)

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day or STAT

PLATELET CONCENTRATE OR PLATELETPHERESIS

Specimen Requirement: One pink top tube. See Ident-A-Blood System Section. **Minimum Volume:** 3 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

Pneumonia Panel (Multiplexed nucleic acid - Molecular)

Acinetobacter calcoaceticus-baumannii complex, Enterobacter Cloacae complex, Escherichia coli, Haemophilus influenza, Klebsiella aerogenes, Klebsiella oxytoca, Klebsiella pneumonia group, Moraxella catarrhalis, Proteus spp., Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Serratia marcescens, Staphylococcus aureus, Streptococcus agalactiae, Streptococcus pneumonia, Streptococcus pyogenes, Chlamydia pneumonia, Legionella pneumophila, Mycoplasma pneumoniae, Adenovirus, Coronafirus, Juman Metapneumovirus, Human Rhinovirus/Enterovirus, Infl A, Infl B, Parainfluenza Virus, RSV, antimicrobial resistance genes

Detection and ID of multiple respiratory viral and bacterial nucleic acids, and antimicrobial resistance genes. Semiquantitatively bacteria count. Negative results may be due to infection with pathogens that are not detected by this test. Detection of bacterial may indicative colonizing or normal respiratory flora and not indicate the causative agent of pneumonia. No consent required and patient information is in LIS.

Call lab 601-426-4560 if consultation, result interpretation or implementation.

Specimen Requirement: Sputum or BAL

Minimum Volume: 2 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

1220 Jefferson St Laurel, MS 39440- 601-426-4560

P&P SPT. LS. 2011.01.21
Reviewed 2020.01.31
Updated 2021.05.25
Reviewed 2023.11.13
Revised 2024.09.09 by
Amanda Fleming
Revised 2024.09.23
Revised by Amanda Fleming
2025.04/08

Page 1 of 46

PO₂

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml Green top tube or heparinized blood on ice. Tube must be properly filled.

Minimum Volume: 4 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Hour

POSSIBLE TRANSFUSION REACTIONS

Specimen Requirement: 7 ml pink top tube (*DO NOT USE SST TUBE*), 3 cc urine. Collect urine specimen and take to Lab with blood transfusion bag with IV set attached (no needles) and sign Report of Transfusion Reaction form. (In 6 hours collect Bilirubin 4 ml green top or 8.5 marble)

Minimum Volume: 5 ml blood, 3 ml urine

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

POTASSIUM

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble), avoid hemolysis; see P&T protocol.

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day or STAT

POTASSIUM, RANDOM URINE

Specimen Requirement: Random urine specimen. No expected normal range for random specimens.

Minimum Volume: 2 ml urine

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

PREGNANCY TEST, URINE (UCG)

Specimen Requirement: Specimen of choice - First early a.m. urine, 12 cc

Minimum Volume: 1 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day or STAT

SCRMC LAB SPECIMEN GUIDELINES

PROCALCITONIN

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green

Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day or STAT

PROTEIN TOTAL 24 HR URINE

Specimen Requirement: A 24 hour urine collection

Minimum Volume: 24 hour urine collection

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

PROTEIN TOTAL, FLUIDS

Specimen Requirement: Body fluids, except CSF

Minimum Volume: 2 ml

Patient Preparation: None **Turnaround**

Time: 1 Day

PROTEIN/TOTAL SERUM

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

PROTHROMBIN TIME (PT)/ PT Mixing Study

Specimen Requirement: One 4.5 ml blue top (let pull to capacity).

Minimum Volume: 1.8 ml blue (fill to capacity)

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

PTH, INTEROPERATIVE (PARATHYROID HORMONE)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day



**SOUTH CENTRAL
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**

1220 Jefferson St Laurel, MS 39440- 601-426-4560

P&P SPT. LS. 2011.01.21
Reviewed 2020.01.31
Updated 2021.05.25
Reviewed 2023.11.13
Revised 2024.09.09 by
Amanda Fleming
Revised 2024.09.23
Revised by Amanda Fleming
2025.04/08

Page 1 of 46

Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA)

Specimen Requirement: One 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

PT: See Prothombin Time

PTT

See Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time (APTT)

PT & APTT MIXING STUDY

Specimen Requirement: One 4.5 ml blue top (let pull to capacity).

Minimum Volume: 1.8 ml blue (filled to capacity).

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

RA LATEX

See Rheumatoid Factor (Latex)

RENAL PROFILE

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

SCRMC LAB SPECIMEN GUIDELINES

RESPIRATORY PANEL (BIO Fire Multiplexed nucleic acid - MOLECULAR PANEL)

Adenovirus, Coronavirus (229E, HKU1, NL63, OC43), Human Metapneumovirus, Human Rhinovirus/Enterovirus, Influenza A (H1N1, 1968, H3N2), Influenza B, MERS-CoV, Parainfluenza Virus (1, 2, 3, 4), RSV, Bordetella parapertussis, Bordetella pertussis, Chlamydia pneumoniae, Mycoplasma pneumoniae
Detection and ID of multiple respiratory viral and bacterial nucleic acids. Negative results may be due to infection with pathogens that are not detected by this test. No consent required and patient information is in LIS. Call lab 601-426-4560 if consultation, result interpretation or implementation.

Specimen Requirement: NP Swab in viral media

Minimum Volume: NP Swab

Patient Preparation: None **Turnaround**

Time: 1 Day

RETICULOCYTE COUNT

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml purple top tube or one purple microtainer. Test must be performed within 8 hours of collection.

Minimum Volume: 250 µl microtainer

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

Rh FACTOR

Specimen Requirement: One pink top tube, can use purple top. *Do not use SST (marble).*

Minimum Volume: 3 ml

Minimum Volume for cord blood: 4 ml purple top – full draw

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

RhoGAM TESTS, FULL DOSE OR MINI DOSE

Specimen Requirement: One pink top tube. *Do not use SST (marble);* all candidates for RhoGAM get a fetal screen also, per Medical Staff directive.

Minimum Volume: 3 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

RHEUMATOID FACTOR (LATEX)

Specimen Requirement: One 8.5 ml SST tube (marble).

Minimum Volume: 1 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day



**SOUTH CENTRAL
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**

1220 Jefferson St Laurel, MS 39440- 601-426-4560

P&P SPT. LS. 2011.01.21
Reviewed 2020.01.31
Updated 2021.05.25
Reviewed 2023.11.13
Revised 2024.09.09 by
Amanda Fleming
Revised 2024.09.23
Revised by Amanda Fleming
2025.04/08

Page 1 of 46

RSV VIRUS QUAL

(SWAB)

Specimen Requirement: Nasopharyngeal swab in 0.7 - 3 ml saline.

Minimum Volume: swab or 1 ml washing

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

SALICYLATE

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) RNA (ID Now)

Rapid molecular detection of CoVID-19

No consent required and patient information is in LIS.
Call lab 601-426-4560 if consultation, result interpretation or
implementation. Negative results should be treated as
presumptive, based on patients signs and symptoms may be
necessary to perform cleared molecular test. Prompts for patient
information are in the LIS.

Specimen Requirement: OP or NP swab

Minimum Volume: 1 swab in packet

(Do not put in viral media)

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

SCRMC LAB SPECIMEN GUIDELINES

SARS-CoV-2 CoVID-19 PCR-RT and CoVID19 Screen PCR-RT Molecular High Through Put detection of CoVID-19

No consent required and patient information is in LIS.
Call lab 601-426-4560 if consultation, result interpretation or
implementation. Negative results should be treated as
presumptive, based on patients signs and symptoms may be
necessary to perform cleared molecular test. Prompts for patient
information are in the LIS.

Specimen Requirement: OP or NP swab

Minimum Volume: 1 swab in Viral media

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

SED RATE, WESTERGREN (ESR)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml purple top.

Do not use purple microtainer; test must be performed within 4 hours of collection.

Minimum Volume: 2 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

SENSITIVITY

**SEE CULTURES, ID AND SENS ARE DONE ON ALL POSITIVE BACTERIAL
CULTURES.**

SGOT AST (ASPARTATE TRANSAMINASE, GOT)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

SGPT ALT (ALANINE TRANSAMINASE, GPT)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day



**SOUTH CENTRAL
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**

1220 Jefferson St Laurel, MS 39440- 601-426-4560

P&P SPT. LS. 2011.01.21
Reviewed 2020.01.31
Updated 2021.05.25
Reviewed 2023.11.13
Revised 2024.09.09 by
Amanda Fleming
Revised 2024.09.23
Revised by Amanda Fleming
2025.04/08

Page 1 of 46

SHIGA Toxin A+B

Part of Culture, Stool

SODIUM

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

SODIUM, RANDOM URINE

Specimen Requirement: Random urine.

Minimum Volume: 2 ml urine

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

SPECIAL STAINS

Specimen Requirement: Surgical or cytological specimens.

Minimum Volume: NA

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

SPECIFIC GRAVITY

Specimen Requirement: Random urine specimen - 12 ml

Minimum Volume: 1 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day **STOOL**

See individual tests, such as culture, OCP, fecal WBC, etc.

STREP A ANTIGEN (THROAT SWAB)

Specimen Requirement: Special swab (Quik Vue - pick up from lab only).

Minimum Volume: Swab

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

SCRMC LAB SPECIMEN GUIDELINES

STREP SCREEN, CULTURE

Specimen Requirement: Throat swab.

Minimum Volume: One swab **Patient**

Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: Preliminary report in 24 hours; final report in 48 hours

STREPTOCOCCUS GROUP B AG

Specimen Requirement: CSF or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 0.4 ml CSF, 1 ml serum

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIAE AG

Specimen Requirement: CSF or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 0.4 ml CSF, 1 ml serum

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

T4 See Free T4

TEGRETOL (CARBAMAZEPINE)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 2 ml

Patient Preparation: None.

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

THC (MARIJUANA) DRUG SCREEN

Specimen Requirement: See Drug
Screen

Minimum Volume: 3 ml urine

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day or STAT

THEOPHYLLINE (AMINOPHYLLINE)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green
top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 2 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

1220 Jefferson St Laurel, MS 39440- 601-426-4560

P&P SPT. LS. 2011.01.21
Reviewed 2020.01.31
Updated 2021.05.25
Reviewed 2023.11.13
Revised 2024.09.09 by
Amanda Fleming
Revised 2024.09.23
Revised by Amanda Fleming
2025.04/08

Page 1 of 46

THROAT CULTURE

Specimen Requirement: Swab inflamed area of throat only. Dry swabs will be rejected. See Miscellaneous Bacteriology.

Minimum Volume: One swab

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day preliminary; 2 Days final

THYROID CASCADE (TSH if abnormal T4 Free)

Specimen Requirement: One 8.5 ml SST tube (marble) or one 4 ml green top

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

TISSUE (PATHOLOGY)

Specimen Requirement: Except for frozen sections place in 10% formalin.

Minimum Volume: NA

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: Contact Pathology Department

TOBRAMYCIN - TROUGH, PEAK OR RANDOM

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

TRANSFERRIN

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble). Avoid hemolysis

Minimum Volume: 4 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

SCRMC LAB SPECIMEN GUIDELINES

TRANSFERRIN SATURATION (IRON, TIBC, TRANSFERRIN SATURATION)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble). Avoid hemolysis

Minimum Volume: 4 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

TRICYCLIC ANTIDEPRESSANTS

For Screening, see Drug Screen.

TRIGLYCERIDES

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble).

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: 12 hour fasting

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

HS TROPONIN I

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml Green top. *Do not use microtainer.*

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day or STAT

TSH

Specimen Requirement: One 8.5 ml SST tube (marble) or one 4 ml green top

Minimum Volume: 3 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

TYLENOL (ACETAMINOPHEN)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum

Volume: 3 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day



**SOUTH CENTRAL
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**

1220 Jefferson St Laurel, MS 39440- 601-426-4560

P&P SPT. LS. 2011.01.21
Reviewed 2020.01.31
Updated 2021.05.25
Reviewed 2023.11.13
Revised 2024.09.09 by
Amanda Fleming
Revised 2024.09.23
Revised by Amanda Fleming
2025.04/08

Page 1 of 46

TYPE AND SCREEN

Specimen Requirement: 7 ml pink top tube. See Ident-A-Blood System Section.

Minimum Volume: 3 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

UREA NITROGEN, BLOOD (BUN)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top
or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Plasma or serum

Minimum Volume: 3 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

UREA NITROGEN, RANDOM URINE

Specimen Requirement: Random urine specimen.

Minimum Volume: 5 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

URIC ACID

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

URINALYSIS, ROUTINE (UA)

Specimen Requirement: Random urine specimen; 12 ml. Urine specimen should be sent to the lab within one hour of collection.

Minimum Volume: 2 ml

Patient Preparation: Clean catch instructions are on the box.

Turnaround Time: 1 Day or STAT

SCRMC LAB SPECIMEN GUIDELINES

URINE CULTURE

Specimen Requirement: Cath or clean catch urine.

Minimum Volume: 1 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 2 Days

UROBILINOGEN STRIP (QUALITATIVE)

Specimen Requirement: Random urine

Minimum Volume: 2 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

VANCOMYCIN, PEAK

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml

Patient Preparation: Per protocol

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

VANCOMYCIN, RANDOM

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day.

VANCOMYCIN, TROUGH

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 3 ml

Patient Preparation: Per protocol

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

Vitamin D 25-Hydroxy

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or SST tube

Minimum Volume: 3 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day



**SOUTH CENTRAL
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**

1220 Jefferson St Laurel, MS 39440- 601-426-4560

P&P SPT. LS. 2011.01.21
Reviewed 2020.01.31
Updated 2021.05.25
Reviewed 2023.11.13
Revised 2024.09.09 by
Amanda Fleming
Revised 2024.09.23
Revised by Amanda Fleming
2025.04/08

Page 1 of 46

Vitamin B 12

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml green top or one 8.5 ml SST tube (marble)

Minimum Volume: 2 ml blood

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

WBC, STOOL -See FECAL LEUKOCYTES

WET PREP

Specimen Requirement: Swab should be placed in special tube containing 1-2 ml sterile saline.

Minimum Volume: 1 ml

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

WHITE BLOOD COUNT (WBC)

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml purple top tube or finger stick purple microtainer.

Minimum Volume: 250 μ l (microtainer)

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day

WHITE BLOOD CELL COUNT with Auto Diff

Specimen Requirement: One 4 ml purple top tube or finger stick purple microtainer.

Minimum Volume: 250 μ l (microtainer)

Patient Preparation: None

Turnaround Time: 1 Day