Laboratory Procedure Manual

Analyte: **Triglycrides**

Matrix: **Serum**

Method: **Hitachi 717**

as performed by: *Lipid Laboratory Johns Hopkins*

University School of Medicine

Lipoprotein Analytical Laboratory

600 North Wolfe Street
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Important Information for Users

The Johns Hopkins Lipid Laboratory periodically refines these laboratory methods. It is the responsibility of the user to contact the person listed on the title page of each write-up before using the analytical method to find out whether any changes have been made and what revisions, if any, have been incorporated.

Public Release Data Set Information

This document details the Lab Protocol for testing the items listed in the following table:

Data File Name	Variable Name	SAS Label
TRIGLY_D	LBXTR	Triglycerides(mg/dL)
	LBDTRSI	Triglycerides(mmol/L

1. SUMMARY OF TEST PRINCIPLE AND CLINICAL RELEVANCE

Triglycerides are measured enzymatically in serum using a series of coupled reactions. Triglycerides are hydrolyzed by lipase to produce glycerol. Gylcerol is then phohoriylated using Glycerokinase (GK). Glycerol-3-phosphate is then oxidized using glycerophosphatel oxidase (GPO), and the resulting H_2O_2 is combined with a phenazone using peroxidase to form a dye, whose absorbance is measured at 500 nm. The reactions proceed as follows:

$$\text{triglycerides} + 3H_2O \xrightarrow{\text{Lipase}} \text{glycerol} + 3\text{RCOOH}$$

$$\text{glycerol} + \text{ATP} \xrightarrow[Mg^{++}]{\text{GK}} \text{glycerol-3-phosphate} + \text{ADP}$$

$$\text{glycerol} + \text{phosphate} + O_2 \xrightarrow{\text{GPO}} \text{dihydroxyacetone phosphate} + H_2O_2$$

$$H_2O_2 + \text{4-aminophenazone} + \text{4-chlorophenol} \xrightarrow{\text{peroxidase}} \text{4-(p-benzoquinone-monoimino)-phenazone} + H_2O + HCl$$

High levels of serum triglycerides help mark conditions that are associated with increased risk for CHD and peripheral atherosclerosis. High triglycerides are associated with increased risk for CAD in patients with other risk factors, such as low HDL-cholesterol, some patient groups with elevated apolipoprotein B concentrations, and patients with forms of LDL that may be particularly atherogenic. Very high triglycerides can result in pancreatitis and should be promptly evaluated and treated. Triglycerides are also measured because the value is used to calculate low density lipoprotein (LDL)-cholesterol concentrations (see below). In NHANES 2005-2008, triglyceride is only measured in specimens from fasting participants, i.e., those sampled in Session 1.

2. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

a. Daily Safety Precautions.

All personnel working in the laboratory must wear gloves and laboratory coats. Laboratory coats are to be kept snapped. Lab coats must meet OSHA compliance CPL2-2.44D. Splash and spray resistant fabric that is also antistatic is required. Gloves are removed when leaving the immediate work area or when entering offices within the immediate work area. All used gloves, vials, pipettes and other items that come in contact with specimens are disposed of in a Biohazard box lined with a red plastic bag. Work benches are cleaned at the end of each day with a solution of sodium hypochlorite (bleach: water, 10:100, v/v) and then covered with plastic-backed white paper.

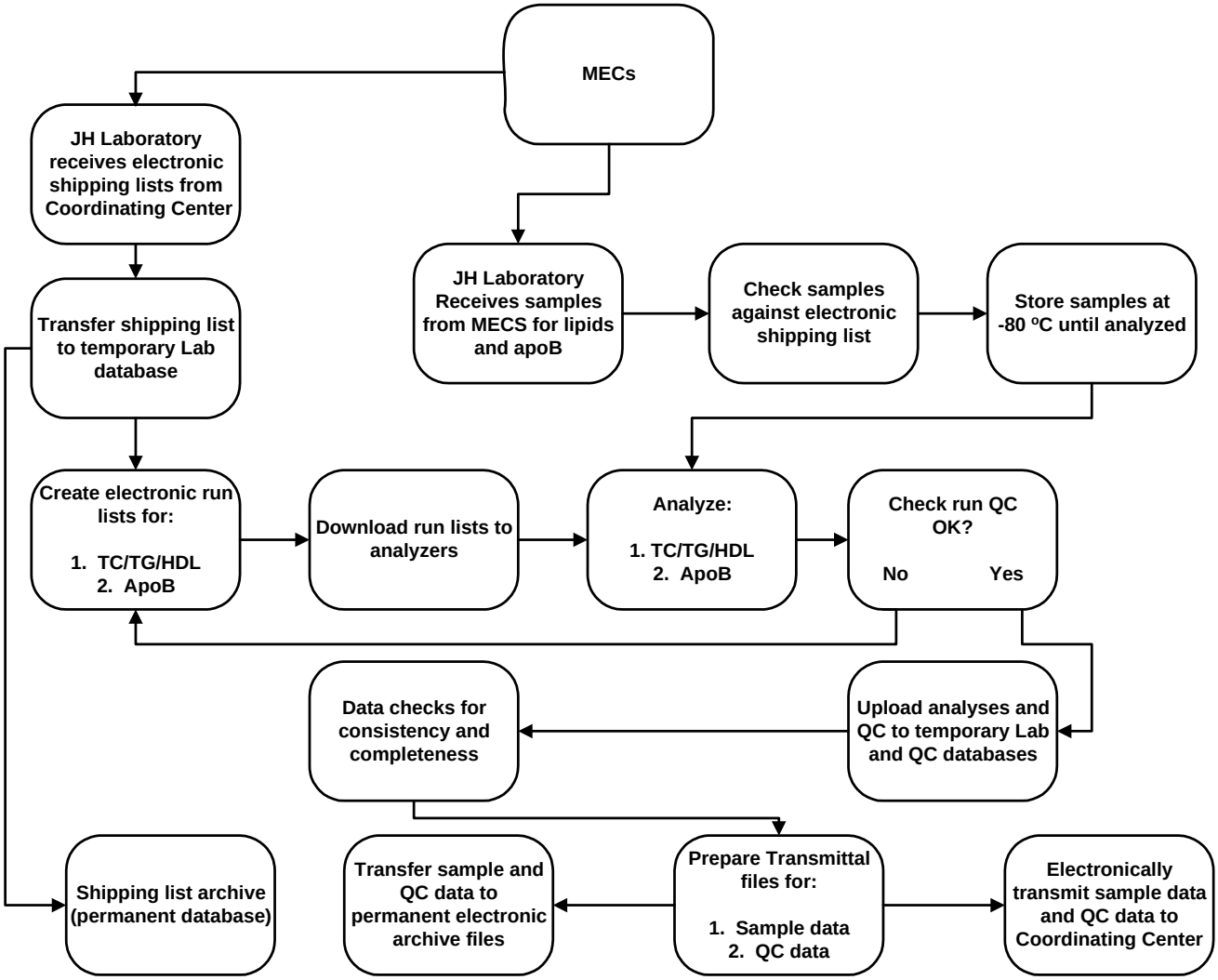
b. Blood Handling.

The improper handling of blood samples from patients with infectious diseases, e.g. hepatitis or HIV, can lead to infection of staff that draw, handle, analyze, or store such samples. Transmission can occur by ingestion, inhalation, or direct contact, and staff must exercise care when handling blood samples. Always wear liquid impermeable gloves (e.g., nitrile or plastic) when handling biological samples. The use of latex gloves is not allowed due to concerns for personnel having or developing latex sensitivities. Never pipet samples by mouth. Avoid contact with serum. Cover any scratches or cuts on fingers and hands and wear gloves before handling serum. Store all samples in sealed containers. In order to minimize the formation aerosols, do not leave samples open to the atmosphere longer than necessary.

It is about 30 times easier to become infected with hepatitis than with HIV through sample mishandling, and it has been recommended that the usual precautions for handling blood specimens to prevent hepatitis infection serve as a guide to prevent AIDS infection as well. Handle all specimens as if you know them to be infectious. All staff should adhere to the CDC Guidelines for Prevention of HIV Infection in Health Care Workers.

c. Spills.
The contaminated area is cleaned with a solution of sodium hypochlorite (bleach: water, 10:100, v/v) and the wipes are disposed of in a red biohazard box.

3. COMPUTERIZATION; DATA SYSTEM MANAGEMENT



The NHANES Lab number is 13, and we will receive vessel(s) 21(serum).Samples will be sent to the following address via FedEx overnight shipping:

Lipoprotein Analytical Lab/JHU
Attn: Donna Virgil
600 North Wolfe Street
Blalock 1379
Baltimore, MD 21287
410-614-1030

Containers of samples will be sent from the collection locations on scheduled shipping days.

On the day the samples are shipped, our lab will receive data files in Excel format (efiles) from the database coordinating center email account. The efiles will be sent to:

Donna Virgil
dvirgil1@jhem.jhmi.edu, or dvirgil1@jhmi.edu

Ella Levy
elevy2@jhem.jhmi.edu
Cindy Wiley
cwiley2@jhmi.edu

The files will follow the file naming convention NH05_######.xls. The "NH5_" will distinguish NHANES 2005 containers from NHANES 1999 container files. The efile contains 19 pre-formatted columns.

a. Laboratory data handling.
The efile received from the database contractor email attachment is imported into the stand alone NHANES dedicated study computer. From this excel file an electronic run file is created for determining total cholesterol, triglyceride and HDL cholesterol analyses on the Hitachi 717 platform. All samples have total cholesterol and HDL cholesterol assayed. Only fasted specimens have triglycerides assayed.

The host computer for the Hitachi 717 uses a Dawning Technologies bidirectional interface to collect data from the analyzer and the program associated with it, MP Cup, will drop the data from the Hitachi 717 into a dbase file(dbf) on the host computer. The dbf is named with the current date and the data is copied to a 3.5 inch FD. The FD is then used to transfer the data to the NHANES computer. DBASE III plus is loaded on the NHANES study computer. Calculation programs to capture dbf data and drop it into the NHANES raw data report (NHRDR) have been used for the past two NHANES studies analyzed in our laboratory.

The NHRDR is visually reviewed by Donna Virgil and if corrections are necessary or a change in the default comment code of 0 is necessary, she makes them at this time.

The current DBASEIII system will output the captured data as a dbf file. This file is then imported into Excel and a comma delimited file (csv) is created. The Excel csv file is used to drop the TC, TG, and HDL-C data into the original excel shipping file received the day the samples were shipped. The specimen data transferred to the shipping file is reviewed again by both Donna Virgil and Cynthia Wiley prior to submitting results to the database coordinating center.

b. Submitting Results
Beginning with column I in Excel, the technician inserts results copied from the Excel csv file created from the NHRDR output dbf file. Not all columns will apply to every result, and those columns that do not apply should be left blank. The laboratory returns the completed results by sending the Excel attachment to the database coordinating center email account within the defined 21 day limit.

c. Result Comment Codes
Numerical comment codes are used to indicate valid results, turbidity, insufficient quantity for analysis, results less than the limit of detection, etc. The comment code is listed next to the results column for each assay value submitted

d. Updating and Deleting Results
If any results already submitted need to be updated or deleted, a change reason numerical code is used to resubmit values to the database coordinating center. No data will be changed or deleted without a change reason.

We do not need to version files each time we resend efiles to make updates or corrections. If the lab needs to correct large amounts of data that encompass many containers, we must contact the systems analyst at the database coordinating center. We can then transmit the data in one large, single file.

e. Late Results
We will receive late result email notifications from the database contractor for results that are past due. If our records do not agree with the late results email, we must contact the database contractor to define the discrepancy. If the specimen does not have a result and we must submit a comment code that most closely explains the reason for the null result (for example: vial broken), the specimen can still be marked as received.

4. SPECIMEN COLLECTION, STORAGE, AND HANDLING PROCEDURES; CRITERIA FOR SPECIMEN REJECTION

a. Specimen handling

(1). Collect blood into a red top Vacutainer® blood collection tube.

(2). Allow the blood to stand for 45 min at room temperature to allow complete clotting and clot retraction. A shorter period may result in incomplete clotting and secondary clots may form later. During the clotting period leave the collection tube sealed.

(3). Centrifuge the samples at 1,500 x g for 30 min at 4º C. It is preferable to use a refrigerated centrifuge for this purpose, but an unrefrigerated centrifuge can be used if necessary. In either case, the samples should be placed into an ice bath immediately after centrifuging and maintained at 2-4° C thereafter.

(4) Samples should be kept frozen at -20ºC, in a non-self defrosting freezer until shipped to the laboratory. If a shipment must be delayed longer than 4 weeks, the specimens should be kept at -80ºC. In the event a shipment may have been thawed and refrozen prior to shipment, this should be noted on the transmittal form.

(5) Samples are shipped by overnight carrier, such as Federal Express. Samples are not shipped on Friday or the day before a holiday, since the laboratory is closed on weekends or holidays. NCHS provided lists of shipment dates that take account of the weekend and holiday schedule. However, in the event it becomes necessary for the laboratory to receive a shipment on a weekend or holiday, NCHS will inform the laboratory of this, and the laboratory makes arrangements to receive the shipment.

(6) Samples are stored at -80ºC until thawed for analysis. Samples are thawed for 45 minutes on a rotating serum mixer and allowed to come to room temperature. An aliquot is first taken for TC, TG and HDLC analysis on the Hitachi 717. After Lipid analysis a second aliquot is placed in sample cups of the BNA100 for Apo B analysis. All samples verified to be on the shipment log and of sufficient volume are run. Insufficient volume is the only criteria for rejection for samples received according to study protocol. If a shipment was delayed and the samples are received thawed, the database contractor is notified and analysis is delayed until a replacement shipment is received in the laboratory.

5. PROCEDURES FOR MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATIONS; CRITERIA FOR REJECTION OF INADEQUATELY PREPARED SLIDES-

Not applicable for this procedure.

6. EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUMENTATION, MATERIALS, REAGENT PREPARATION, CALIBRATORS (STANDARDS), AND CONTROLS

a. Instrumentation
Hitachi 717

b. Other Materials
Serum mixer, transfer pipets, sample cups, quality control normal and high serum from Solomon Park, SL2 and SL3 series.

c. Reagent Preparation- None supplied ready made.
R1 Buffer/4-Chlorophenol/Enzymes
Reactive Ingredients:
50 mmol/L PIPES Buffer, pH 6.8
40 mmol/L Mg**
0.20 mmol/L Sodium cholate
≥1.4 mmol/L ATP
≥0.13 mmol/L 4-Aminophenazone
4.7 mmol/L 4-Chlorophenol
1 µmol/L Potassium hexacyanoferrate
0.65% Fatty alcohol polyglycol ether
≥ 5.0 U/mL Lipoprotein lipase (EC 3.1.1.13; Pseudomonas species 25˚C)
≥2.5 U/mL GPO (Glycerol phosphate oxidase) (EC 1.1.3.21;E coli; 25˚C)
≥0.10 U/mL POD (Peroxides) (EC 1.11.1.7; horseradish; 25˚C)
0.19 U/mL GK (Glycerolkinase) (EC 2.7.1.30; Bacillus stearothermophilus; 25˚C)
Nonreactive Ingredients:
Preservative

For R1 Working Solution: Use as supplied. Excessive foaming of this reagent may cause inaccurate pipetting of reagent which can lead to potentially erroneous results.

Ensure that foam is removed prior to use.

d. Standards Preparation – Thaw, rotate and mix for 45 minutes until room temperature is achieved

e. Preparation of Quality Control Materials– Thaw, rotate and mix for 45 minutes until room temperature is achieved

7. CALIBRATION AND CALIBRATION VERIFICATION PROCEDURES

a. Calibration Curve STD 1/Blank/CALIB 1: Use 0.9% NaCl
2/STD/CALIB 2: Use C.f.a.s. Calibrator

Calibration Frequency:

A 2-point calibration occurs every 28 days, with a reagent lot change, or after performing major maintenance or troubleshooting. A blank update occurs with each reagent bottle of same lot.

Maximum on-analyzer stability is 24 hours for STD 1 and 8 hours for STD 2.

b. Verification

All reagent and calibrator lots are validated with 5-10 samples run with both the old calibrator /reagent run values vs. the newly calibrated channel or new reagent lot. All values must be within 5% of the older lot analysis. If the values are greater than 5% the lot is rejected for use.

8. PROCEDURE OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS; CALCULATIONS; INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

a. Preliminaries-

(1) Receipt of samples in laboratory.

When the samples arrive in the laboratory, they are logged into the laboratory by batch according to the shipping transmittal that accompanies the samples. The laboratory records the date the samples were received and their condition (O.K., thawed, sample missing, etc.) using the appropriate sample condition code (Appendix A). The samples are transferred to a -80°C freezer until they are analyzed.

(2) Inadequate specimens.

Inadequate specimens can result from factors such as cracked vials, inadequately sealed vials, empty vials, gross hemolysis, and thawed samples. When they occur occasionally, such inadequate specimens are noted on the transmittal using the sample condition codes. If the problem involves an entire shipment, or reflects a continuing problem, the originating MEC will be alerted by fax as soon as the Laboratory becomes aware of the problem.

b. Sample preparation

The vials are removed from the freezer, placed upright and allowed to thaw at room temperature. The sealed vials are placed on a blood mixer and rotated for 30 min at room temperature to ensure complete mixing. The samples are then unsealed and aliquots are removed for the appropriate tests. After thawing, specimens are stored at 4°C. The schedule sample receipt, analysis, data checks and preparation of transmittal files is indicated in section 6. above. Analyses should be performed within the first 2 days after thawing and repeat analysis should be performed within 6 days.

c. Instrument setup

Triglycerides

Temperature: 37°C

Test	[TRIG]
Assay Code	[1POINT]:[50]-[0]
Sample Volume	[3] [1]
R1 Volume	[250][100][NO]
R2 Volume	[0][100][NO]
Wavelength	[700][505]
Calib. Method	[LINEAR][0] [0]
Std. (1) Conc.-Pos.	[0]-[1]
Std. (2) Conc.-Pos.	[*]-[2]
Std. (3) Conc.-Pos.	[0]-[0]
Std. (4) Conc.-Pos.	[0]-[0]
Std. (5) Conc.-Pos.	[0]-[0]
Std. (6) Conc.-Pos.	[0]-[0]
Unit	[MG/DL]
SD Limit	[0.1]
Duplicate Limit	[200]
Sensitivity Limit	[1100]
ABS. Limit (INC/DEC)	[0][INC.]
Prozone Limit	[0][LOWER]
Expected Value	[0]-[200]
TECH Limit	[0]-[1000]
Instrument Factor	[1.00]

[*] Enter the lot specific calibrator value

d. Operation of Assay Procedure

Approximately 300 µl of serum, fresh frozen at -70°C, from fasting subjects (minimum 9 hours) is required. The Hitachi analyzer is calibrated at the beginning of the week and as necessary thereafter. A one point calibration procedure is used for Direct HDL-cholesterol. Frozen serum calibration pools (Solomon Park Laboratories, Kirkland, WA) are used to calibrate total cholesterol. The direct method HDL-cholesterol assays uses Lipids Cfas(calibrator for automated systems) available from Roche Diagnostics. Triglycerides are calibrated using calibration sera (Cfas) obtained from the Roche Diagnostics

(1). Daily Check

The following procedures are performed at the beginning of each work day before the first analytical run.

(a). Check water supply.
(b). Check 2% Hitergent supply**.
(c). Check Cell Clean 90 supply**.
(d) Prepare reagents, controls and calibrators as needed.
(e). Exchange incubation bath water: Press MAINTENANCE, then press 1 E ENTER.
(f). Perform Photometer Check.
(g). Air purge: "Start Conditions" display.
(h). Wipe sample and reagent probes.
(i). Probe adjust.

** Refer to Section 6. Reagents, above

(2) Full Calibration:

If the CRT display shown is in the Routine Job Menu, press NEXT or BACK to move to the Calibrator & Control Test Selection display. If the CRT display shown is not in the Routine Job Menu, press ROUTINE, then press 3 ENTER.

(a) CALIBRATION TYPE: Press 1 ENTER to specify "Start-Up" Calibration.
(b) STANDARD TYPE: Press 1 ENTER to select tests for the blank (saline). If test selection for the blank is stored in memory, the tests in memory appear at the right margin of the display.
(c) TESTS: Activate the appropriate test or profile keys for those tests which require a Blank Calibrator, then press ENTER. (Each test key is activated when its LED is illuminated). The tests assigned appear at the right margin of the display, and the STANDARD TYPE entry field displays: "STD 2-6".
(d) TESTS: Press the appropriate test keys for those tests which require a standard or standards, then press ENTER. Advance the cursor to the CALIB LOAD LIST entry field. Press 1 ENTER.
(e) If you do not want to run controls, update the System Disk with calibrator test selection as follows:
Advance the cursor to FD READ/WRITE.
Press 2 ENTER.
The CRT displays: "WRITE OK?"
Press 1 ENTER (YES).
NOTE: It is not absolutely necessary to write calibrator test selection data on the System Disk. However, if the laboratory experiences a power failure, this step prevents permanent loss of test selection information.
Wait while the System Disk is updated, then proceed to ROUTINE PATIENT TEST SELECTION (Section 2.1.6).

(3).BLANK CALIBRATION ONLY:

If the CRT display shown is in the Routine Job Menu, press NEXT or BACK to move to the Calibrator & Control Test Selection display. If the CRT display shown is not in the Routine Job Menu, press ROUTINE, then press 3 ENTER.
(a) CALIBRATION TYPE: Press 1 ENTER to specify "Start-Up" Calibration.
(b) STANDARD TYPE: Press 1 ENTER to select tests for the blank (saline) update. If previous test selections for blanks are stored in memory, the tests in memory will appear at the right margin of the display.
(c) TESTS: Activate the appropriate test or profile keys for those tests requiring a blank update, then press ENTER. (Each test key is activated when its LED is illuminated.) The tests assigned appear at the right margin of the display, and the STANDARD TYPE entry field displays: "STD 2-6".
(d) TESTS: Deselect all previously selected tests so that no tests are selected for "STD 2-6", then press ENTER.
(e) Press ROUTINE, then press 4 ENTER and the Start Conditions screen will appear on the display.
(f) Enter the START SAMPLE NO. and request START UP CALIBRATION. Verify that a control interval of 1 or greater has been selected. All runs of 15 samples or more require 3 sets of control pools per run. (Tests requiring controls were selected in Routine Job No. 3)
(g) Press START to begin the calibration.

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e. Recording of Data
Data is transferred to a 3.5 floppy disk as a dbf file and imported into a dedicated stand alone PC which imports the data into the raw data report. At this point a visual review of

the data is done prior to exporting the data to another dbf format file which is then opened in excel. The excel file will be edited to include rundate, runnumber and technician number and a csv file is created. From the comma delimited file the data is copied and pasted into the original excel spreadsheet that is received electronically prior to sample shipment. Once all analyses are compiled into the shipment file it is transmitted to the database coordinating center via email attachment. Each datafile is acknowledged with a processing status reply email letting the lab know if the data imported into the dbase correctly. If notification is made that the file needs editing then edits are made and the file resent and renamed with a higher version number.

f. Calculations

The Hitachi 717 microcomputer uses absorbance measurements to calculate cholesterol concentrations as follows:

$C_X = [K(A_X - A_b) + C_b] \times IF$

Where:

C_X = Concentration of Sample.

K = Concentration factor (determined during calibration).

A_X = Mean of absorbances of Sample + R1 read during cycles indicated in Assay Code field for the respective test.

A_b = Mean of absorbances of Blank +R1 read during cycles indicated in the Assay Code field for the respective test.

C_b = Concentration of Blank (STD).

IF = Instrument Factor (dilution correction

IF = 1.00 for triglycerides

9. REPORTABLE RANGE OF RESULTS

LINEARITY: 4 - 3000 mg/dL

When the result exceeds 1000 mg/dL dilute the specimen with 0.9% saline and re-assay.

Report patient results less than 4 mg/dL as < 4 mg/dL.

Report patient results greater that 3000 mg/dL as > 3000 mg/dL

10. QUALITY CONTROL (QC) PROCEDURES

The Central Laboratory monitors its performance by analyzing quality control sera for which the values have been assigned by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Lipid Standardization Laboratory using CDC reference methods. The estimates of analytical error obtained from the analysis of quality control materials are assumed to represent the error of the measurements in survey samples. The control pools are therefore subjected to the same analytical manipulations as the survey samples.

The precision of lipid and lipoprotein analyses is determined from replicate analyses of the control sera in each run. Two control pools, one with normal and one with elevated lipid concentration, are used to monitor the analysis of total plasma cholesterol and triglyceride.

a. Control limits
The control limits for each pool are calculated from the overall mean and standard deviation of the run means, and ranges for the pool. Temporary control limits for each pool are calculated from the first 20 run days. Permanent control limits are determined after 50 run days and remain in effect until the pool is exhausted. Continuity between the current and replacement pool is maintained from at least 20 overlapping runs in which both pools are analyzed in parallel. It is from this period of overlap that the 20 run temporary limits are established for the replacement pool. During this period the acceptability of the measurements is based on the current pool. Furthermore, the analyses must be "in control" before the data are accepted for use to establish control limits for the replacement pool. Two types of control charts are prepared for each level of each analyte. The mean chart monitors the deviation of individual run means X from the overall laboratory mean, X. Any shift, drift, or among day variability is assessed from the mean chart. The range, or R chart, monitors within-run variability.

b. Quality Control Pools
Two quality control pools are used to monitor the analysis of total cholesterol In each case, one pool has normal, and the other elevated concentrations of the respective analytes. An aliquot from each pool is analyzed two times in each run.

c. Introduction of Replacement Control Pools
Before a control pool is depleted, a replacement pool is purchased from Solomon Park Laboratories, Kirkland, WA. These pools have CDC-assigned reference values. Each is analyzed on a minimum of 20 run days (temporary limits) concurrently with the current pool. The mean, standard deviation, and range for the replacement pool are established. During this overlap period, quality control is maintained with the current pool.

Limits for the replacement pool are calculated and evaluated, and control charts are prepared as described in the following sections. Care is taken to assure that data used in the calculations are only from runs that are "in control" i.e. that meet established quality control criteria. As soon as acceptable temporary limits are reestablished, control is transferred to the replacement pool, and the original pool is retired. Permanent control limits are established after 50 run days.

d. Calculation of Control Limits
The Lipid Laboratory uses statistical control charts to evaluate performance and make quality control decisions. Control limits are calculated from the means, standard deviations and ranges as described in this section. It is important that the data used to calculate control limits be collected during a stable analytical period when they are representative of overall laboratory performance. The daily mean, X, for a control pool is calculated for each run by averaging the replicate values for the pool:
X = sum of control values/number of replicates = x/n

For NHANES 2005-2006, n = 2.
The overall mean for the pool, $\underline{X}$, is calculated by summing the individual run means and dividing by the number of runs, N:
$\underline{X}$ = sum of run means/number of runs = X/N

The overall mean is rounded to the nearest whole number.

N = 20 run days for temporary limits
N = 50 run days for permanent limits

The standard deviation of the run means, S_X, is also calculated for the control pool. The basic equation for calculating standard deviation is as follows:
$S_X = (x - x)^2 / (N - 1)$

The range, R, for each run is the difference between the highest and the lowest value obtained for the pool in that run:
$R = X_{high} - X_{low}$

The average range, R, for a series of runs is calculated by dividing the sum of the ranges for the series by the number of runs:
$\underline{R} = R/N$
N = 20 for temporary limits
N = 50 for permanent limits.

The control limits (99%) for the X chart are calculated as follows:
Upper control limit = $\underline{X} + 3S_X$
Lower control limit = $\underline{X} - 3S_X$

Control limits are rounded to the nearest whole number.
The warning (95%) limits for the X chart are calculated as follows:
Upper warning limit = $\underline{X} + 2S_X$
Lower warning limit = $\underline{X} - 2S_X$

Warning limits are rounded to nearest whole number.
The limits on X are evaluated as described below.
The limits used for the R chart are calculated in a similar fashion.
Range control limit = $\underline{R} + 3\ S_r$
Range warning limit = $\underline{R} + 2\ S_r$
Where S_r is the standard deviation of $\underline{R}$.
The lower limit for the range chart is zero since there is no negative range.

e. Evaluation of Control Limits
Before the control chart can be used for quality control, it is reviewed to determine that the data have been collected during a stable analytical period. The chart is examined for outliers, for periods of questionable or unstable performance, and for evidence of excessive bias. An outlier will distort the control limits if incorporated into the final calculations. An outlier is considered to be any value of X which falls outside the control limits ($\underline{X} \pm 3S_X$) or any value of R which exceeds the control limit for R. These values are eliminated as are values from any questionable period of performance. The values of $\underline{X}$, S_X, and the control limits are recalculated and the charts are evaluated again.

When values from at least 20 acceptable runs are used for the final calculations, the control charts are constructed according to the criteria listed below. If there are not 20 acceptable runs after eliminating unacceptable data, continue analyzing the pool until at least 20 acceptable runs have been completed.

The criteria used in the Lipid Laboratory were those that served as guidelines for the Lipid Research Clinics Program and are designed to minimize both bias and variability. As used in this manual, the bias of the cholesterol is calculated as the algebraic difference between the X and the CDC reference value (RV) for the pool.

f. Construction of Control Charts

A separate control chart is constructed for each analyte in each control pool. Construct each chart so that plots for X and R are arranged one above the other on the same sheet of graph paper. Draw the X line across the entire sheet; draw the warning- and control limits parallel to the X line. At the top of the chart, indicate the CDC reference value.

Draw the R line and R limits on the R plot.

Plot the run mean and range values. The chart should be kept current; the values should be plotted after each run. Make liberal use of annotations indicating events that might affect the analyses (personnel changes, reagent problems, changes in instrument components, etc.).

g. Use and Interpretation of Control Charts

Values for X which exceed the $3S_X$ limit or values of R that exceed the range control limit indicate the run is 'out-of-control'. The run must be repeated. Statistically, one in 100 runs can be expected to be 'out-of-control during normal stable operation. A value exceeding the warning limit, but not the control limit, is interpreted as an indication of possible trouble, but does not necessarily require action. Statistically, about one in 20 values will exceed the warning limits.

Table 3 .Precision and Accuracy of TG Control Pools

Pool	Mean	95% limits	99% limits	95% limits (range)	99% limits (range)	Cumulative Mean	N
SL2 I348	80.5	2SD = 4.42	3SD = 6.63	76.1-84.92	73.87-87.13	80.4	115
SL3 I180	203	2 SD = 8.12	3SD = 12.18	195-211.1	190.8-215.18	204.7	963

11. REMEDIAL ACTION IF CALIBRATION OR QC SYSTEMS FAIL TO MEET ACCEPTABLE CRITERIA

Do not release patient data when control errors occur. Investigate the system for the cause, then perform calibration, assay quality control and repeat patients as determined to be necessary. Review the Quality Control Guidelines procedure for additional information. Consult with the Supervision when in doubt.

12 LIMITATIONS OF METHOD; INTERFERING SUBSTANCES AND CONDITIONS

Icterus:No significant negative interference from conjugated bilirubin above an I index of 10 and from unconjugated bilirubin above an I index of 27.

Hemolysis:No significant interference from hemoglobin up to an H index of 500.

Lipemia:No significant interference from lipemia up to an L index of 1000. (NA)(Intralipid). Dilute extremely lipemic samples 1+ 4 with 0.9% NaCl and multiply the result by 5.

13. REFERENCE RANGES (NORMAL VALUES)

< 150 mg/dL	Normal
150-199 mg/dl	Borderline high
200-499 mg/dl	High
>500 mg/dl	Very high

Source: National Cholesterol Education Program, Adult Treatment Panel III
JAMA, May 16,2001- Vol 285; 2486-2497.

14. CRITICAL CALL RESULTS ("PANIC VALUES")

Occasionally, a specimen may have a value considered to be a “critical action value (CAV)”. A critical action value is a value that can reflect a life-threatening problem if not attended to promptly. Extremely high triglyceride levels (i.e., levels > 2,000 mg/dL) can be the result of pancreatitis, a potentially life threatening condition. For this reason, the triglyceride panic value for NHANES 2005-2008 is set at 1,000 mg/dL. Values of 1,000 mg/dL or higher are communicated to NCHS by fax or telephone as soon as the values become reportable. Kathryn Porter is the designated Medical Officer to which the critical action value should be reported.

15. SPECIMEN STORAGE AND HANDLING DURING TESTING

Samples are received frozen and stored at -80^{O}C until testing is performed.

16. ALTERNATIVE METHODS FOR PERFORMING TEST OR STORING SPECIMENS IF TEST SYSTEM FAILS

Samples are held at -80 in the freezer in 1379. If a problem occurs and this freezer begins to warm samples are transferred to the research freezers located in 1358. A service call is placed to repair the freezer in 1379. A loaner freezer is requested for each service repair that removes the freezer from 1379 for any period greater than 1 day.

No alternate test site has been identified. As far as downtime for equipment repairs, the 21 day turnaround time as established in the contract, has always been sufficient enough to allow

the repair to occur prior to the deadline for sample analysis. If the repair could not be accomplished in the time frame allowed we will discuss the three options available to us with the project officer. One option is to wait until the repair is made if the proposed repair date is agreeable to the project officer. The second option is to perform the analyses in the Clinical Chemistry Laboratory of the Johns Hopkins Hospital. While the chemistries are identical, they are performed in the Clinical Chemistry laboratory on a larger platform, namely the Hitachi Modular. While this laboratory is CLIA certified it is not a participant in the CDC LSP program. Split sample comparisons are run between the two laboratories on patient samples so relative bias is known. The third option would be to use the NWRL since it is a CDC referenced laboratory. If necessary the JHU and NWRL laboratories can establish the bias between the two laboratories.

17. TEST RESULT REPORTING SYSTEM; PROTOCOL FOR REPORTING CRITICAL CALLS (IF APPLICABLE)

For Triglycerides a value of 1000 or more, maybe be considered life threatening depending on the underlying cause, and must be reported to the medical officer.

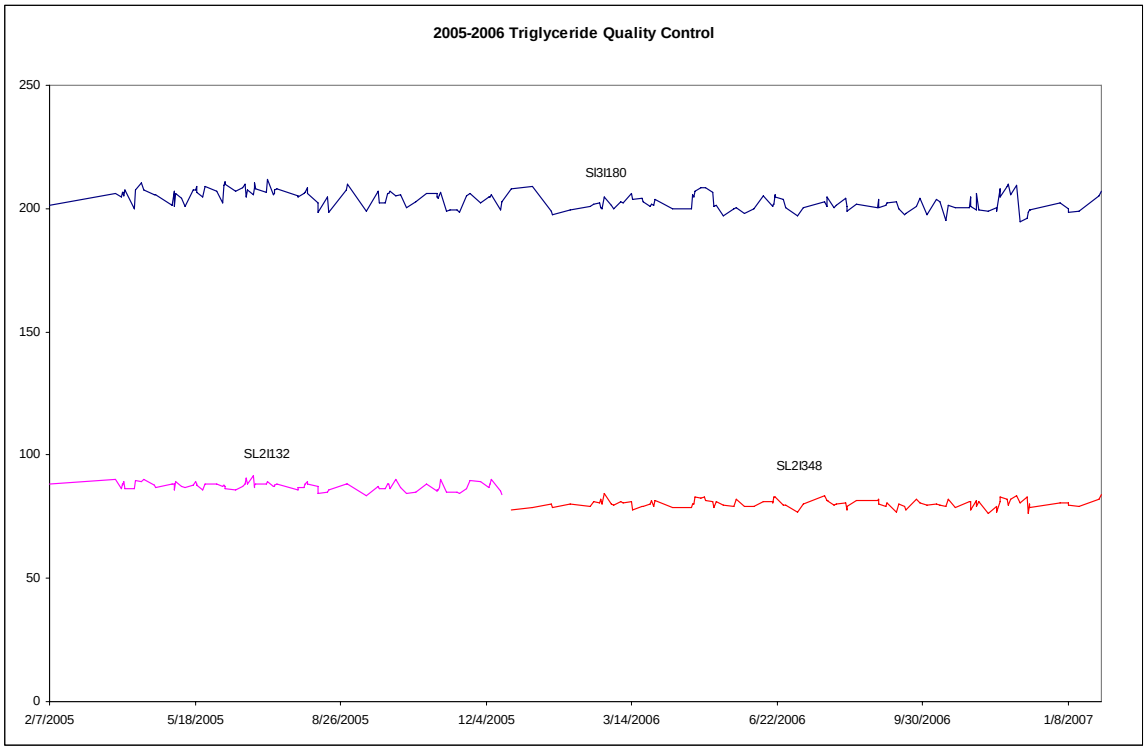
18. TRANSFER OR REFERRAL OF SPECIMENS; PROCEDURES FOR SPECIMEN ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRACKING

The shipping list that is emailed to the laboratory is used to create runs for the Hitachi Chemistry Analyzer and the Dade Behring BN100 nephelometer. Shipments are checked against the email shipping lists upon arrival in the laboratory. Problems with vials such as condition, QNS etc are noted upon physical inspection. The number comment codes provided to the laboratory by the database contractor and NCHS for reporting data are used to indicate individual analyte comments. For example, if the individual vial was empty upon inspection then the empty vial code of 18 is entered in the comment field for each analysis requested for that individual specimen ID. The report form for NHANES 2005 is an Excel spreadsheet sent originally as the shipping list email attachment with the data entry columns blank. Data is transferred from the instruments to the spreadsheet and visually checked for transcription errors by the Lab and Study Coordinators prior to email transfer to database coordinating center. The laboratory has 21 days from the receipt of samples in the laboratory to report the specimen data to the database coordinating center. Should the laboratory exceed the 21 day contractual limit, the database contractor notifies the Study Coordinator by email of the individual specimens and the test data owed for each specimen.

19. SUMMARY STATISTICS AND QC GRAPHS

Summary Statistics for Triglyceride by Lot

Lot	N	Start Date	End Date	Mean	Standard Deviation	Coefficient of Variation
SL2I132	86	2/7/2005	12/15/2005	87.5	1.6	1.8
Sl3I180	187	2/7/2005	1/31/2007	203.6	3.6	1.8
SL2I348	101	12/21/2005	1/31/2007	80.3	1.7	2.1



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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