

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
Operations Division
Health Services Section Policy and Procedure #P-D-04.5

SUBJECT: USE OF CENTRIFUGE

POLICY: All specimens drawn in serum separator tubes will be centrifuged. Any on-site lab procedures will follow applicable CLIA and OSHA regulations.

REFERENCE: NCCHC Standard P-D-04, Diagnostic Services
OAR 437 Division 2: Subdivision Z: 1910-1030

PROCEDURE:

- A. Assemble the following equipment:
 - 1. Balance tube of same size as specimen tube to put H₂O in.
 - 2. Gloves and eye protection must be worn when handling blood and body fluids.
- B. Prior to centrifuging, let specimen stand for approximately 20 minutes to form a clot.
- C. The centrifuge must be properly balanced. If you only have one tube to spin, fill a second tube with equal amount of water. Place tubes directly opposite each other to spin. Failure to have proper counter balance will cause damage to the specimen tube and the centrifuge.
- D. After closing and securing the latch lid of the centrifuge, spin specimen for a minimum of 10 minutes.
- E. If any body fluid comes in contact with unprotected skin, eyes, or a spill occurs, follow procedure for body fluid exposure.
- F. Carefully remove specimen tube from centrifuge. If specimen was collected in a red/black (SST) top tube, the gel in the tube will keep the serum separated following the centrifuge procedure and may be transported in the same tube with no further preparation.
- G. Put the specimen and requisition slip in a plastic transport bag, labeled with bio-hazard, furnished by the lab and refrigerate as indicated by the laboratory procedure book.
- H. Appropriate blood and body fluid precautions will be followed as indicated.

Use of Centrifuge

The following steps shall be followed to clean-up broken specimen tubes in the centrifuge:

- A. Allow centrifuge to stop, do not open for five minutes.
- B. Wear the following PPE: latex gloves, protective gown and face shield. Use extreme caution to prevent cutting hands.
- C. Remove all metal tube holders and dispose of all specimen tubes in an approved biohazard sharps container.
- D. Remove the central tube holder bracket by unscrewing the nut. Place this bracket, nut and the metal tube holders in an OSHA approved blood borne pathogen cleaning solution for 10 minutes. After soaking, rinse with tap water.
- E. Completely wash the inside of the centrifuge, including the inside of the lid and rotor with an OSHA approved blood borne pathogen cleaning solution. Rinse with tap water.
- F. Reassemble centrifuge making sure it is balanced.

Effective Date: _____

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