

University of Washington Clinical Laboratories
Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology
Standard Serum/Plasma Processing Procedure

1. Specimens that Require Centrifugation

1. Serum or plasma samples collected in red, gold SST, orange RST, green, lime PST, pearl PPT, lavender, or gray top tubes.

2. Centrifugation

1. Standard settings:
 - a. Room temperature samples are spun for 10 minutes at a relative centrifugal force (RCF) = 3254 x g (or 4200 RPM for our centrifuges).
 - b. Refrigerated samples are spun for 10 minutes at a relative centrifugal force (RCF) = 3254 x g (or 4200 RPM for our centrifuges) and 4°C.

3. Aliquoting

1. All aliquots are placed into 5mL (75 x 12mm) polypropylene tubes (Sarstedt, 55.526.045) unless otherwise specified.
2. Alternatively, polypropylene Sarstedt microtubes with screwcaps (72.694.006) can be used if specifically requested. Any other tube types will need to be provided by the investigator.
3. The RTS unit cost of processing will be assessed per blood draw tube type and total number of aliquots requested, e.g., a request for processing two red top tubes into 6 or less aliquots of serum and two lavender top tubes into 6 or less aliquots of plasma will incur 2 processing charges.