

Specimen Collection Instructions for Postmortem Blood

1. **Be safe.** Wear personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure both the collector's safety and the integrity of the specimen. Be sure to use proper needle safety to prevent puncture wounds.
2. **Collect and organize the components.** Ensure the proper tube type is being used for each specimen. For whole blood specimens, use a 4 mL Sodium Fluoride (NaF) grey topped tube.
3. **Label the tubes.** Record the name and date of birth of the decedent on the tube for identification in pen or marker.
4. **Collect the specimens.** Draw specimen in a clean, unused needle and syringe, using a different syringe for each different specimen type (ex: urine or blood). For blood collection, be sure not to "milk" blood by squeezing or rubbing the immediate area. This dilutes blood collected with fluid from surrounding tissues.
5. **Fill the tubes.** Insert the needle of the syringe into the blood tube and allow the tube's vacuum seal to draw fluid from the syringe into the tube. NEVER open a blood tube by removing the cap.
6. **Prepare specimens for transport.** Place the tubes into sealable biohazard bags for secondary containment.
7. **Complete documentation.** Complete the testing requisition and with an appropriate chain of custody.
8. **Follow Kit Instructions.** Follow kit instructions for subsequent specimen handling. Properly packaged specimens can be delivered to the laboratory or shipped by mail service/common carrier following any shipping and labeling requirements by that service.

Some tests may require different collection and shipping instructions. See test descriptions for details or contact 814-361-6997/info@molecdx.com.