

Blood Collection Protocol and Send-Out for Wren RNA Stabilization Tubes

You have received a kit (transport box) with RNA Stabilization Buffer tubes for collection of venous blood for the evaluation of the NETest.

The Wren RNA Stabilization tubes contains a buffer that can preserve the NETest mRNA signature at room temperature for up to **SEVEN** days.

The kit is used to courier the blood sample directly to the London laboratory.

- RNA stabilization tubes can be stored at room temperature until used for blood collection (*collection protocol detailed below*).
- Each tube has an expiry date, and should not be used after this time. Expired tubes should be discarded directly into a biohazard bin or a sharps container.
- Once blood is collected into a tube, the NETest signature is stable for up to seven days at room temperature. Tubes can also be stored in the fridge (4°C). For longer storage, tubes should be frozen down and kept at -80°C in a freezer.

- ❖ **Ideally**, collected samples should be sent to the laboratory **within 2-3 days** via courier service.
 - Please use the kit that we provided.
 - **No ice or dry ice is required.**
 - **The kit with sample(s) should be sent at room temperature.**
- ❖ If samples **cannot** be sent within this time-frame (within 2-3 days of collection), they should be stored **frozen** in a **-80°C freezer** until send out. For send out of frozen samples:
 - Please use the kit that we provided.
 - **No ice or dry ice is required.**
 - The kit with **frozen sample(s)** should be sent at **room temperature**.

DO NOT SEND BLOOD SAMPLES STORED FOR LONGER THAN SEVEN DAYS AT ROOM TEMPERATURE/IN THE REFRIGERATOR.

IF MULTIPLE SAMPLES ARE COLLECTED OVER SEVERAL DAYS OR WEEKS, STORE ALL SAMPLES AT -80°C UNTIL SEND OUT.

BLOOD COLLECTION

Principle: This procedure details the steps necessary for the collection of 2mL of whole blood from venipuncture into Wren RNA Stabilization tubes. The tubes are pre-filled with 4mL of stabilizing buffer. The vacuum within the tube will automatically draw ~1-2mL of blood from venipuncture directly into the tube. The tube is then inverted 8-10 times for immediate stabilization.

Important notes before beginning:

- It is crucial that the tube be kept as vertical as possible when collecting blood from the patient. If the tube is horizontal the stabilizing buffer will flow towards the cap of the tube and the buffer may backflow into the vein.
 - **Keep the patient's arm in a downward position.**
 - **The figure below demonstrates the correct approach.**
- It is necessary to wait for the blood to fill the tube.
- Once collection is complete, it is extremely important to **completely invert** the tubes 8-10 times for complete mixing.
- **Storage: Either 2-3 days at room temperature before couriering or -80°C for longer storage.**

