

## *Hemostasis and Thrombosis*

### *Notes* □



The sample requirements for each test offered by the Florida Hospital Center for Hemostasis and Thrombosis are detailed separately. The following specimen handling information is essential and should be used in conjunction with the *Tests Available* listing.

**Note 1:** 4.5 ml venous blood should be added to blue top tubes each containing 0.5 ml of 3.2% sodium citrate. Please note that stated normal ranges might not be correct if blood is collected into 3.8% sodium citrate. Short-sampled tubes give erroneous results and will not be accepted. Tubes should be kept cool (NOT frozen) and delivered to our laboratory within 2 hours. If delivery cannot be achieved in this time, separate plasma as soon as possible by spinning at 2,500 x g for at least 15 minutes. The use of a refrigerated centrifuge is preferable. If multiple tests have been requested on the same patient, divide the plasma into a corresponding number of 0.5 or 1.0 ml aliquots in plastic tubes (refer to stated minimum volumes of each test) and freeze at -20°C or below. **Frozen plasma must not be allowed to thaw during transport and must be shipped on dry ice.**

**Note 2:** Specimens for DNA-based (PCR) assays may be supplied as whole blood or as the cells that remain after separation of plasma. We prefer to receive citrated (Blue Top) samples to avoid possible confusion with samples that require clot-based tests. These samples should be shipped on regular ice and must NOT be frozen. Because we prefer to reflexively test for FV Leiden in the event of an abnormal APCR test, the residual cells should accompany requests for the latter.

**Note 3:** Samples for Platelet Function Analyzer (PFA)-100 test, Platelet Aggregation, Direct Platelet Antibody Test, Platelet Glycoprotein Analysis (flow cytometry), Sonoclot Analysis and Thromboelastography **must** be supplied as whole blood. Do NOT separate or freeze. Samples should arrive in our laboratory within 3 hours of collection and should be maintained at or near room temperature (15-25°C). **Do not refrigerate or freeze.**

**Note 4:** For heparin (anti-Fxa) assays, please state the type of heparin level required – unfractionated (regular) heparin, low molecular weight heparin or danaparoid sodium (Orgaran ). Non-Florida Hospital clients should supply a sample of the patient's heparin with the blood sample and test request. For accurate results, it is necessary for us to calibrate the assay with the same material being administered to the patient.

**Note 5:** Plasma for homocysteine **should be separated as soon as possible after collection of the blood sample**. Plasma left in contact with the red cells for extended periods may have spuriously elevated homocysteine levels.

**Note 6:** Tests for Lupus Anticoagulant require extra precautions in sample handling. If blood cannot be delivered to our laboratory within 2 hours, separate as described in Note 1. Plasma should then be re-centrifuged to ensure that it is platelet-free ( $<10 \times 10^9/l$ ) OR filtered through a 0.45  $\mu$ m filter before freezing. Failure to observe these additional precautions may lead to falsely negative results.