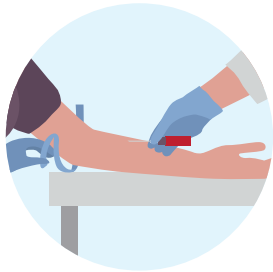


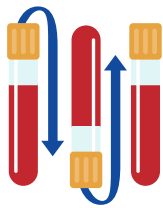
How to Ensure Quality Serum Specimen



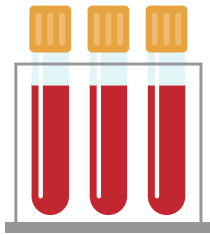
Inspect supplies for defects and applicable expiration dates. Assemble the devices after correctly identifying the patient and verifying that test requirements has been met.



Perform venipuncture aseptically. Ensure that the Order of Draw is followed.

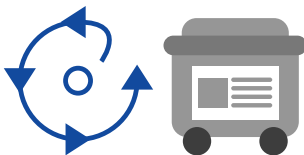


Gently invert the tube(s) 180° immediately after each draw to ensure complete mixture of blood and clotting activators present in the tube.



Set tubes upright after mixing. This will ensure that no red cells are trapped in the hemoguard cap that can contaminate the serum sample after centrifugation.

Ensure completion of clot PRIOR to centrifugation by letting the tube stand upright for at least 30 mins.



Ensure proper time and speed of centrifugation.



A properly spun SST tube has serum on the top, gel in the middle, and red cells on the bottom. If the gel is on the bottom or does not form a complete seal between the red cells and the serum, the SST does not have adequate separation.