

PODCAST - Standard Operating Procedure, No. 01

Title: Collection & storage of Substudy blood samples

1. After a patient has been consented into the trial, 2 samples of blood should be collected: clotted/serum (8 ml) and EDTA (4 ml).
2. PODCAST blood samples should be collected at baseline. (If this is not possible, both samples should be taken at the next feasible follow-up clinic visit.)
3. The EDTA / FBC tube is for the DNA sample. Freeze the whole blood in its EDTA collection bottle without any spinning.
4. Spin the serum sample in a centrifuge at 3,000 rpm for 9 minutes, remembering to balance the tube. Pipette as much of the serum out as possible and transfer it to a 5 ml sterile tube (avoid contaminating this with blood). The sterile tubes are not supplied by the Coordinating Centre but can be obtained locally.
5. Blood samples should be anonymised by labelling each tube with the date, patient trial number, initials and centre number. Use a 'freezer' pen that is smudge proof and fade-free at ultra low temperatures.
6. Freeze **both** samples at -20 degrees or less (ideally at -70 degrees centigrade, or below).
7. Enter the data on the blood sample freezer log form, located in the Investigator Site File.
8. Upon completion of the blood sample freezer log (or if you have storage issues), please contact the Nottingham Coordinating Centre to organise transportation of the frozen samples.

Blood sample freezer logs are available to download on the PODCAST website at www.podcast-trial.org/