



SPECIMEN STORAGE GUIDE

Specimen	Type	Temperature
Aspirates/Fluids	All (Store overnight at 4°C only if there are unavoidable transport delays)	Room temperature
Blood cultures	All	Room temperature
Blood specimens	INR Coagulation profiles (must arrive at laboratory within 2 hours)	Refrigeration at 4°C
	All others - Do not refrigerate (particularly if potassium is requested) unless special collection requirements specify otherwise (refer to Test Collection Manual)	Room temperature
Faeces	FOB tubes	Refrigeration at 4°C
	Helicobacter Antigen	Refrigeration at 4°C
	M&C, ova, cysts and parasites, viruses, clostridium difficile, strongyloides	Room temperature
	Reducing sugars - (specimens must stay frozen in transit) Calprotectin, faecal elastase, tryptic activity	Frozen
Semen	All	Room temperature
Skin Scrapings	All (Scrapings for Histology - must be sent in formalin)	Room temperature
Sputum	Cytology and TB	Refrigeration at 4°C
	M&C	Room temperature
Swabs	Transport Medium	Room temperature
Tissue - Histology	Fresh (non-formalin fixed only) If sent in formalin, can be room temperature	Refrigeration at 4°C
Tissue - Microbiology	All	Room temperature
Urine	M&C, Tuberculosis (AFB), 24 hour	Refrigeration at 4°C

For more information regarding specimen collection and storage, refer to the Test Collection Manual at www.mps.com.au or contact Help Desk on **9287 7799**.

For URGENT specimens which require testing within 2–3 hours of collection, contact the Courier Department on 9287 7788.