

Store specimens according to the table below until specimens can be delivered to the reference laboratory.

SPECIMEN TYPE	STORAGE CONDITION
<b>Biochemistry Samples</b> <b>SST</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Samples should ideally be centrifuged within 4-5 hours.</li> <li>• Never refrigerate an uncentrifuged sample or will give abnormal potassium results after about 30 minutes.</li> <li>• Samples after centrifugation are best kept refrigerated.</li> <li>• Samples kept uncentrifuged overnight will have abnormal potassium, phosphate and LD results otherwise not too bad.</li> </ul>
<b>Haematology Samples</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EDTA (CBC ESR)-<b>Refrigerate</b></li> <li>• Citrate – <b>Room temperature</b> (Limited life span, but will be OK for INR &amp; D-dimers)</li> </ul>
Blood sendaway	Depending on test, check with lab
Histology (formalin)	Room temperature
Non-Gynae Cytology	Refrigerate
Cytology SPT	Room temperature
All swabs (e-swab)	Refrigerate – <b>Test within 48hrs</b>
Viral swabs	Refrigerate
Vaginal Swabs	Refrigerate – <b>Test within 48hrs</b>
Blood Culture	Room temperature
Faeces	Refrigerate unless freezing is required
Urines	Refrigerate (Microbiology test ASAP), unless freezing is required
Spores/ Environmental	Room temperature
Body Fluids/ Aspirates	Refrigerate – <b>Test within 48hrs</b>
Sputum	Refrigerate
FNA/ Tissue Samples	Refrigerate
Mycology skin scraping	Room temperature
Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea BD tubes (Swabs and Urines)	Room temperature or Refrigerate (Stable at between 2-30C for 30 days)