

Division of Laboratory Medicine

Immunology

Cryoglobulins

General information

Specimen transport: Samples in Thermos at 37°C. Contact the laboratory to arrange collection of the Thermos flask.

Repeat frequency: At significant change of clinical symptoms.

Special precautions: The samples must be taken into a pre-warmed syringes and then pre-warmed tubes. They must be transported at 37°C in a Thermos flask. Always contact the laboratory before bleeding the patient. There is a **3pm cut off** for the acceptance of cryoglobulin samples.

Laboratory information

Normal reference range: Not normally detected

Volume and sample type: 7ml clotted blood maintained at 37°C and 7ml EDTA (plasma) blood maintained at 37°C.

Method: Immunofixation

Participation in EQA scheme: Pilot UK NEQAS for Cryoproteins

Turnaround time (calendar days from sample receipt to authorised result): Median - 7

Clinical information

Indications for the test:

- Lymphoproliferative disease (Monoclonal)
- Connective tissue disease: SLE, Sjogren's, Raynaud's and cutaneous vasculitis.
- There is almost always a low C4 in cryoglobulinaemia

Factors affecting the test: Any minor variations in temperature (1°C)

ICE reference: Cryoglobulins

(Last updated April 2020)