

HIV Antibody Form and Specimen Collection Instructions

NOTE: Keep this form and the collection card attached together. The assigned bar code number is unique for each form and the attached collection card.

A. Complete the required information on the front of this form.

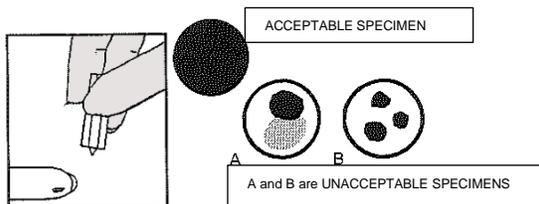
1. Print submitter information or use address stamp.
2. Positively identify the patient before collecting the specimen.
3. In the presence of the patient, place the patient name or other unique identifier where indicated on the form.

Note: The card and form have an assigned bar code number. However, this is NOT the unique patient identifier. There must be an agency-provided unique identifier.

4. Record the bar code number from the form for the submitter's record.
5. Failure to comply with these instructions may result in specimen rejection or a delay in testing.

B. Follow these Specimen Collection Instructions

1. Use a lancet to collect the blood specimen.
2. Warm the skin-puncture site with a warm moist towel for three minutes at a temperature no higher than 42 degrees Celsius.
3. Disinfect area from which blood is to be collected (preferably a finger as shown in the illustration) with 70% (v/v) isopropyl alcohol.
4. Wipe off excess alcohol with sterile dry gauze and allow skin to air dry.
5. Perform the puncture with enough force and penetration to sustain a blood flow of several drops.
6. Wipe the first drop of blood away with sterile gauze. Allow large drops of free-flowing blood to form and apply directly to filter paper, saturating circles in the acceptable pattern illustrated below. Continue to collect drops in this manner until the wound ceases to bleed or a **minimum of two circles are filled**.
7. Hold the puncture site downward to enhance blood flow. **Do not squeeze**. This introduces tissue fluid and will dilute the blood.
8. Allow the blood spots to dry flat at room temperature for three or more hours.
9. **Do not stack wet specimens.**
10. **Do not expose specimens to heat or direct sunlight.**
11. Fold the flap over the blood spot prior to mailing. Mail specimens in envelopes provided within 24 hours of specimen collection.



NOTE: The shipper is responsible for ensuring that their package is in compliance with the current shipping regulations.