

Provincial Laboratory Services



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Body Fluid Collection Containers for Clinical Chemistry and Hematology April 27, 2020

This information applies to: Diagnostic Imaging and Same-Day Treatment QEH

The following is an updated list of the appropriate specimen containers for body fluid testing at QEH Clinical Chemistry and Hematology labs. Note that PCH also accepts Green top tubes for Clinical Chemistry tests (except pH).

Test	Container
Clinical Chemistry	
Albumin	Red top (serum tube)
Amylase	Red top (serum tube)
Cholesterol	Red top (serum tube)
Glucose	Red top (serum tube); Gray top acceptable
Lactate	Gray top
LDH	Red top (serum tube)
pH	Heparinized syringe*
Protein	Red top (serum tube)
Specific Gravity	Red top (serum tube)
Urate	Red top (serum tube)
Hematology	
Cell count	Lavender top
Joint Crystals	Lavender top; C&S also acceptable

*Body fluid pH specimens should be collected anaerobically in an electrolyte-balanced/ Ca^{2+} titrated heparin air-tight plastic syringe transported on ice. Air bubbles must be expelled, and the syringe capped. Air exposure leads to a false elevation of pH that affects interpretation. **Never send any specimens to lab with a needle attached.**

As of May 1, 2020 Clinical Chemistry will cancel pleural fluid pH collections submitted in an inappropriate container.

For more information about specimen containers, contact QEH Clinical Chemistry at (902) 894-2324:

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