COLLECTION & HANDLING OF SAMPLES FOR HEMOGLOBIN IDENTIFICATION

Proper collection and handling of specimens are essential when sending samples to Meharry Sickle Cell Center. The procedure described below must be followed to insure safe transit and compliance with Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA) standards and postal regulations. The Meharry Sickle Cell Center mails to the different Agencies in the State of Tennessee and on a regular basis the supplies needed for blood collection for hemoglobinopathy testing. If you run out of our blood collection supplies please e-mail sickle_cell@mmc.edu, fax 615-327-6008 or phone 615-327-6763 us your request.

SUPPLIES NEEDED
Request Form (Adult/Children)
Microvette Tube EDTA
Plastic Bags
Styrofoam Mailing Boxes
Red Tape (if not, substitute)

Procedure:
1. **Label tube with patient’s name and date of birth** (label not included).
2. Perform a finger or heel stick using good laboratory techniques following the instructions of the lancing device manufacturer.
3. Wipe off the first drop of blood and then touch the capillary tip of the Microvette Tube to the droplet of blood as it appears at the incision. Excessive pressure of squeezing on puncture area must be avoided to prevent premature coagulation in the capillary.
4. After the blood has been taken, the capillary unit is removed and properly discarded and the sample container is closed with the attached stopper.
5. **Immediately** mix the blood with the EDTA anticoagulant by inverting several times the collection tube back and forth.
6. Fill out the laboratory form completely and legibly and include the address where the results should be mailed. Fold laboratory request form and place in unsealed pocket of the biohazard bag.
7. Place the sealed Microvette tube in the zip lock pocket of the biohazard bag and place in Styrofoam mailing box.
8. Place Styrofoam box in mailing sleeve and seal both ends. Provider a return address on the mailing box.
9. Mail appropriately packaged sample(s) to:
   Meharry Medical College
   Sickle Cell Center
   Attn: Laboratory Supervisor
   1005 D.B. Todd Boulevard
   Nashville, TN 37208

   Phone: (615) 327-6763 Fax: (615) 327-6008
   Email: sickle_cell@mmc.edu

MICROVETTE® CB1000

When collecting, the ventilation channel must face upwards
Important for EDTA, glucose and plasma

Revised: 11/28/2005