

CONTROL INFORMATION STATEMENT

Control bloods for Laboratory Services testing

Thank you for offering to provide a “control” specimen for RCH Laboratory Services for one or more special tests carried out in our laboratories.

1. Why does the laboratory need control specimens?

For most tests that we do in pathology, there are commercial control materials available to ensure the integrity of the test. In the tests listed below, there are no commercially available materials, so we need to use samples from healthy individuals to alert us to any technical problems associated with the test. These control samples are generally required to be collected on the same day as the patient sample.

2. What are these tests done for?

You may be a ‘control’ donor for one or more of the following tests:

- **Lymphocyte and Neutrophil Function tests**

These tests are performed to determine the types and function of different cells of the immune system.

- **PFA 100**

This test is used as a screening test for the detection of platelet dysfunction.

- **Platelet Function Test**

This test is performed if the screening test is found to show that further tests are required.

- **Miscellaneous – other (please state)**

3. Will my blood sample be suitable to be used for control purposes?

Generally, any normal healthy person has blood which is suitable to be used for control purposes, however in some situations, specific samples are NOT suitable. If you answer YES to any of the questions below listed under specific tests, the test requirements mean that you might not be able to be a control for that test:

PLATELET FUNCTION TEST / PFA-100

Do you have a history of bleeding / bleeding disorder/blood clotting YES / NO

Have you had aspirin or any non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines
within the last 7 days YES / NO

Have you taken any other medication in the past 7 days YES / NO

If Yes, please specify: _____

IMMUNE FUNCTION TESTS

Are you the brother, sister or parent of the patient being tested? YES / NO

Do you have any known immune deficiency? YES / NO

Are you taking any immunosuppressive medications e.g. steroids YES / NO

Are you pregnant? YES / NO

4. Other information that would be helpful for us to know

Have you been vaccinated against Hepatitis B? YES / NO

5. How much blood is required for control specimens?

Test	Maximum amount of blood required
Lymphocyte and Neutrophil Function	20 mL
PFA 100	3.8 mL
Platelet Function Test	25 mL

6. What are the possible discomforts and / or inconveniences?

Minor discomfort associated with having blood taken.

7. What will be done to ensure the information is confidential?

All control data is entered into the RCH Laboratory Information System in a coded fashion:

Surname = Coded donor number (Donor ID code)

Given name = Date of test.

All control information is kept in a secure file in the RCH Pathology Collection Department.

8. Will I be informed of the results when the tests are finished?

Results will generally NOT be made available for 2 reasons:

1. There is no guarantee of what tests will be done on any given control donor.
2. Because your sample is the control, abnormalities may reflect technical error or instrument error rather than the true value.

However, occasionally an abnormality may be detected which appears clinically significant and would require confirmation and / or follow up. If this was to occur, you have 2 options:

- 1) Results, with an explanation letter, will be sent to a specified Doctor, who will then contact you to discuss the results.
- 2) Results will be given to the relevant RCH Pathologist, who will discuss the results with you.

On the Control Consent Form there is provision for you to let us know which option you choose.