

Submission of Blood Samples for Genetic Analysis of the Human *PRNP* Gene

Prion Diseases Section
National Microbiology Laboratory
Public Health Agency of Canada
1015 Arlington Street
Winnipeg, MB R3E 3R2
T: 204-789-6078
Email: phac.cjd.aspc@canada.ca

The following document describes the requirements for documentation, collection and transport of samples to the lab as required by Transport of Dangerous Goods legislation and CAN-P-4E (ISO/IEC 17025).

1. Sample:

- 1.1 A total of 15 mL of whole blood collected in anti-coagulant tubes is required to complete testing.

Note: Blood that has been frozen or treated with formalin or formaldehyde is not suitable for processing.

2. Collection tube:

- 2.1 The test requires anti-coagulated whole blood. Recommended collection tubes are whole blood tubes, either ACD (pale yellow stopper) or EDTA (pink or lavender stopper).
- 2.2 Blood should be shipped in the original vacutainer and not transferred to other types of tubes or vials.

3. Labelling:

- 3.1 The tube must be labelled with the date of draw, patient's name, and a unique specimen reference number, matching information on the associated requisition. Unlabelled tubes will not be processed.

4. Required Documentation:

- 4.1 Completed Requisition for Prion Diseases Section
 - 4.1.1 Available on the National Microbiology Laboratory Guide to Services:
<https://cnphi.canada.ca>
- 4.2 Completed Consent for Genetic Testing
 - 4.2.1 Available from the Canadian Creutzfeldt-Jakob Surveillance System
TEL: 888-489-2999 or FAX: 613-954-5012
- 4.3 Sample must be received with requisition. Consent may be sent later by Fax to the Surveillance system or by email to the Prion Diseases Section
phac.cjd.aspc@canada.ca

Note: The sample will not be processed until the signed Consent Form is received.

5. Packaging and Shipping:

- 5.1 A sample being shipped immediately after collection can be shipped at ambient temperature
- 5.2 A sample being stored more than 24 hours prior to shipping should be stored and shipped at 4°C
- 5.3 An individual certified in the Transportation of Dangerous Goods must package and ship the sample.
- 5.4 The sample can be shipped in any 1A or 1B packaging that meets Transport Canada requirements.
- 5.5 The package should be tightly packed to prevent the sample tubes from shifting or breaking during shipping. There must be sufficient absorbent material in each primary container to absorb the entire volume of the sample in case of breakage. Enclose all documents inside the rigid secondary container.
- 5.6 The sample is identified as a “UN3373 Biological Substance, Category B”. The package must be labelled with a UN3373 sticker.
- 5.7 A Shipper’s Declaration is not required for Category B shipments. An itemized list of contents must be included inside the shipping container.

- 5.8 It is strongly recommended to ship samples by overnight express, Monday through Wednesday only. Samples shipped on a Thursday, *must* be shipped with a courier with *guaranteed* overnight delivery as the lab is not open on the weekend to receive samples. Samples should not be shipped on Friday, Saturday, or statutory holidays.

Note: Every effort has been made to ensure that the above protocol meets the most current requirements of TDG legislation. This protocol is reviewed on an annual basis. Compliance in packaging and shipping the samples is the responsibility of the shipper.

- 5.9 **Please notify the National Microbiology Laboratory by email at phac.cjd.aspc@canada.ca when a sample is shipped.**

- 5.10 Ship to:

Prion Diseases Section
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Public Health Agency of Canada
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T: 204-789-6078
F: 204-789-5009
Email: phac.cjd.aspc@canada.ca

6. Contact Information:

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