

Allergy Testing Blood Draw and Shipping Instructions

- 1) All allergy samples should be drawn in plastic, red tiger-top SST vacutainer tubes. The phlebotomist will perform a veni-puncture draw of approximately 6-9 ml of whole blood since 3-5 ml of serum is necessary for proper testing. A full, single tube of whole blood will generate enough serum to run most tests, however if you have chosen multiple test panels, an additional SST should be drawn.
- 2) Please label each SST tube with the patient name and date of birth.
- 3) Allow the sample to stand until clotting begins, centrifuge for approximately 15 minutes until the serum has separated from the red blood cells.
- 4) Complete the Patient Order Form with all the information requested and indicate which test panel(s) are being ordered.
- 5) Place the SST tube and the Patient Order Form inside a zip lock bag and place the bag in the corrugated box supplied by Spectrum Health Care, or other similar protective mailer.
- 6) Once the specimen is secure, it should be placed inside a FedEx **Clinical Pak** bag. Spectrum Health Care will send one (1) sample Clinical Paks so that you will have an example of what you need to request from Federal Express. Be sure the patient sample and Order Form have been placed inside a protective mailer of some sort first. (corrugated box or similar) **DO NOT place SST tubes and Order Forms directly into the FedEx Clinical Pak or they will be REJECTED by the FedEx courier.**
- 7) Place the right side of a FedEx Billable Label (that has been supplied by Spectrum Health Care) in the upper right corner of the FedEx Clinical Pak. Save the left side of the Billable Label which contains the Tracking Number for any inquiries. Please call **1-800-GO-FEDEX** for a pickup or drop the pak in any neighborhood FedEx outgoing collection box.
- 8) When you call for a pickup you may ask for additional Clinical Paks. FedEx may ask for your account number to identify your location.
- 9) If you do not ship a sample on the day it was drawn, it may be refrigerated until ready for shipment but do not freeze it.
- 10) The above procedure will ensure that samples are received by our laboratory within 2 business days which will improve the overall turn-around time for patient results resulting in much improved customer service.