

Blood Transfusion Laboratory Practice – All Schemes General Instructions and COSHH Information

SUPPLIER CONTACT DETAILS

The material is supplied by UK NEQAS BTLT, operated by the West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust. Contact details are shown above.

EXERCISE PACKAGE

An exercise package comprises a plastic transport bag containing documentation and a plastic Thermocor container with:

- A clear side in which plastic vials of serum / plasma and/or red cell & whole blood samples are held.
- An absorbent side that will absorb up to 50ml of liquid, i.e. the entire contents of the package, in the event of a breakage of all the vials.

OPENING OF VIALS

Gently unscrew cap from vial.

INFORMATION REQUIRED TO CONTROL SUBSTANCES HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH (COSHH)

- Red cell and whole blood samples may comprise material from several standard red cell, plasma, or cord donations, suspended in modified Alsever's solution, which contains chloramphenicol and neomycin. Additional antibiotics (penicillin and gentamycin) may be added.
- Serum / plasma samples comprise material from several donations and **0.08 to 0.12% w/v of sodium azide***.
 - o *Although the sodium azide is toxic on ingestion or inhalation, its primary hazard at this concentration is that on disposal via the waste system, compounds can form with lead, copper or other heavy metals present or forming part of the waste system. When dry, such compounds are explosive on mechanical shock or on heating.
 - o The explosive risk can be minimised by flushing any material discarded via the waste system with a large volume of water.

HANDLING AND DISPOSAL OF PACKAGED MATERIAL

The blood donations from which the samples are prepared have all been tested and found negative for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), Hepatitis C Virus (HCV), and Syphilis. However, as with all preparations of human origin, the material cannot be assumed to be free from infectious agents. The material should therefore be handled and discarded as if potentially infectious.

USE OF PACKAGED MATERIAL

This material is intended to represent clinical samples for assessment of the performance of clinical laboratories undertaking blood group serology, red cell genotyping, or feto-maternal haemorrhage.

**THIS INFORMATION SHOULD BE REVIEWED BY YOUR COSHH ASSESSOR FOR
CONSIDERATION OF ANY CHANGES NECESSARY TO YOUR LOCAL WORK PRACTICE**