

## Guidelines for Specimen Collection and Labeling

**Instrument: Siemens Immulite 1000 Immunoassay System**

**TEST (TEST CODE): Cortisol (CORT)**

**SPECIMEN TYPE:** Whole Blood

**COLLECTION CONTAINER:** Gold top tube (SST), Red top tube (clot activator)



**COLLECTION AMOUNTS:** Preferred: 2.0 mL  
Minimum: 1.0 mL

**REJECTION CRITERIA:** Hemolyzed specimens are unacceptable. Room temperature specimens are unacceptable.

**COLLECTION TIMING:** Separate serum from cells ASAP or within 2 hours of collection.

**PROCESSING SPECIMENS:** **Serum**

**PROCESSED AMOUNTS:** Preferred: 1.0 mL  
Minimum: 0.5 mL

**PROCESSING INSTRUCTIONS:** Allow specimen to clot for 20-30 minutes at room temperature and centrifuge. Separating serum from cells ASAP or within 2 hours of collection. Transfer 1 mL (min 0.5 mL) of serum to a standard transport tube. Place sample in -70°C to optimize sample stability.

<b>SPECIMEN STORAGE/STABILITY:</b>	<b>Temperature</b>	<b>Stability</b>
	Ambient	8 hour(s)
	Refrigerated	2 day(s)
	Frozen	6 month(s)

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

Freeze specimen during transportation, ship on dry-ice.

REFERENCE INTERVAL:

Diurnal Variation	<i>a.m.</i> : 5 – 25 µg/dL (138 – 690 nmol/L) <i>p.m.</i> : Approximately half of a.m. values
ACTH Stimulation	Over twice (usually 3 to 5 times) basal values
ACTH Reserve	Below basal (control) values
Dexamethasone Suppression	Below basal (control) values for the screening, low-dose and high-dose tests