

COLLECTION AND SHIPPING CRITERIA

CSF, Plasma, Serum, and Urine samples for JCV QPCR (DO NOT SEND WHOLE BLOOD)

1. CSF, Plasma, Serum, and Urine sample tubes must be labeled with a patient identification number, sample type, sample volume, and sample collection date. LMMN must receive 1 mL minimum of sample (per sample type) in sealed vials, frozen immediately after collection, and maintained at -80° C (-20° C is sufficient if lower degree storage is not available). The qPCR assay requires 200 µL and is repeated on occasion for assurance. Therefore, the 1mL minimum allows sufficient sample for initial assays, and any retesting the LMMN may require. Insufficient sample volumes cannot be tested.
2. Samples can not be processed until a fully completed “Sample ID Form” is received. Please enclose a completed “Sample ID Form” with each sample shipment, and/or include a packing list of samples (describing samples in-full, and matching tube labels) that specifies tests to be performed, as well as a brief current medical-history of the patient for our records. Patient medical-histories are required to justify sample testing and fulfill the mission of the LMMN as a research laboratory.
3. The LMMN can only report testing results to a patient's attending physician, unless permission to report elsewhere is supplied in writing by the patient’s attending physician. Please include shipping address, phone and fax numbers, as well as email address of the physician to be notified of results.
4. Send samples on dry ice by overnight priority express carrier. Samples must be shipped to destination in leak-proof biohazard containers which meet government mandated safety regulations. Proper packaging includes an inner, sealed, pressure and liquid tight container with absorbent packing material around sample-tubes, and bubble wrapping to prevent breakage. This inner container is place in a Styrofoam box with sufficient dry-ice to keep the samples frozen. These containers are enclosed in an outer cardboard shipping box, labeled according to regulations of your overnight carrier of choice.
5. For international shipping, in addition to the above instructions, check with your carrier of choice for Customs Instructions (for example: World Courier)
6. Because personnel are not available to receive specimens on weekends, samples should not be shipped on Friday, but preferably sent at the beginning of the week. The LMMN cannot validate testing results of CSF samples that have not been maintained frozen at anytime after collection. The LMMN may elect to not test any CSF, Plasma, Serum, or Urine sample received unfrozen.
7. The NIH does not charge for this testing.
8. Please notify the LMMN with the date of shipment (tracking number if available), and/or if there are any questions (see contacts below).
9. Send samples by overnight priority to:
Eugene O. Major, Ph.D.
National Institutes of Health
Laboratory of Molecular Medicine and Neuroscience
10 Center Drive
Building 10, Room 3B14
Bethesda, MD 20892-1296
p. 301.496.2899
f. 301.594.5799
10. Contacts: **Peter Jensen** 301.496.2899 **jensenp@ninds.nih.gov**
Caroline Ryschkewitsch 301.594.3305 **ryschkec@ninds.nih.gov**
Eugene O. Major, Ph.D. **majorg@ninds.nih.gov**