



# SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY Public Health Laboratory

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## SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

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### QuantiFERON<sup>®</sup> -TB Gold In-Tube

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The blood collection tubes we have supplied are for use only with the QuantiFERON<sup>®</sup> TB Gold In-Tube test. The following instructions relate solely to the entire QuantiFERON<sup>®</sup> TB Gold In-Tube blood collection tubes.

**There are three tubes for each patient; a red cap, purple cap and a gray cap. Antigens have been dried onto the inner wall of the blood collection tubes so it is essential that the contents of the tubes be mixed with the blood.**

#### COLLECTION

1. For each patient collect 1 mL of blood by venipuncture directly into each of the QuantiFERON TB Gold In-Tube collection tubes.
  - a. The 1 mL tubes draw blood relatively slowly so keep the tube on the needle for 2-3 seconds once the tube appears to have completed filling to ensure that the correct volume is drawn.

*The black mark on the side of the tubes indicates the 1 mL fill volume. QuantiFERON<sup>®</sup> -TB Gold blood collection tubes are manufactured to draw  $\pm 10\%$ . If the level of blood in any tube is not close to the indicator line, it is recommended you obtain another blood sample.*
  - b. If a “butterfly needle” is being used to collect blood, a “purge” tube should be used to ensure that the tubing is filled with blood prior to the QuantiFERON<sup>®</sup> -TB Gold tubes being used.
2. Once the blood is drawn into the 3 tubes, shake them ten (10) times just firmly enough to ensure the entire inner surface of the tube is coated with blood. This step is critical to ensure complete integration of the tube’s contents into the blood. Do not be concerned about lysing the red blood cells.
3. Label tubes appropriately with patient name, date and time drawn.
4. **Do not centrifuge, refrigerate or freeze the blood samples**

#### TRANSPORT

1. Transport the blood tubes to SLOPHL, between 17 to 22°C, as quickly as possible and within 16 hours of collection