

Category: Study procedures
Title: Separation, Storage and Shipment of Blood samples.
SOP No / Version No.: DCP 25/08
Date first effective: 1 Jan 2026 **Review date:** 31 Dec 2026

Department of Clinical Pharmacology, 1st Floor, New MS Building,
Seth GS Medical College & KEM Hospital, Parel, Mumbai 400012.

Category: Study procedures
Title: Separation, Storage and Shipment of Blood samples for any study (clinical trial/Academic study).
SOP No / Version No: 25 /08 **Total pages:** 07

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Author:
1) Dr. Shiva Krishna Rao.T
1st Year DM Resident
2) Dr. Shital Bendkhale
Project Scientist- II

Shiva
11 Jan 2026
Bendkhale
11 JAN 2026

Signature with date

Reviewer: Dr. Roopa Parida
Assistant Professor

Signature with date

Parida
01/Jan/2026

Approved by: Dr. Nithya Gogtay
Professor and Head

1st Jan 26

Dr Nithya Gogtay
Professor & Head
Department of Clinical Pharmacology
1st Floor, MS Building
Seth GS Medical College & KEM Hospital
Parel, Mumbai 400 012

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Signature with date

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1st Jan 2026
Dr Nithya Gogtay
Professor & Head
Department of Clinical Pharmacology
1st Floor, MS Building
Seth GS Medical College & KEM Hospital
Parel, Mumbai 400 012

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1. Purpose

This SOP describes the procedure for separation, storage and shipment of samples for any study (clinical trial/academic study).

2. Scope

This SOP is limited to procedures of Separation, Storage and Shipment of Blood samples.

3. Responsibility

The Principal Investigator will allocate the task of performing separation, storage and shipment of samples to appropriate trained personnel who will be identified at the beginning of the trial. This will be reflected in the duty delegation log of the study.

4. Applicable rules and regulation

- ICMR Good Clinical Laboratory Practices Guidelines 2021 (https://www.icmr.gov.in/icmrobject/custom_data/pdf/resource-guidelines/GCLP_Guidelines_2020_Final.pdf) accessed on 1st January 2026)
- Guidelines for the shipment and receipt of infectious specimens http://hiv.neuro.jhmi.edu/nead/resources/NEAD_protocol_5-10-06.doc (As accessed on 1st January 2026)
- New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules (2019), <https://cdsco.gov.in/opencms/opencms/en/Acts-and-rules/New-Drugs/>, last accessed on 1st January 2026.

5. Reference to other applicable SOPs

- SOP No / Version No. 03/07: Responsibilities of the study team

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1st Jan 26
Dr Nithya Gogtay
Professor & Head
Department of Clinical Pharmacology
1st Floor, MS Building
Seth GS Medical College & KEM Hospital
Parel, Mumbai 400 012

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- SOP No / Version No. 10/07: Procedure for collection of blood samples of trial participants.
- SOP No / Version No. 24/07: Waste Management.

6. Detailed instructions

1. The procedures described in this SOP begin after the blood is collected. Blood samples are collected in glass bulbs/ Vacutainers (Refer SOP No / Version No. 10/06: Procedure for collection of blood samples of trial participants).
2. After collection of blood samples, the serum or plasma is to be separated in calibrated centrifuge machine as per the protocol.
3. The concerned personnel should always wear a pair of gloves throughout the procedure till the time the sample is being handled. Universal precautions should be exercised while processing blood sample.
4. Separation of Serum/ Plasma:
 - For Serum sample: Allow the sample to clot at room temperature till complete clot formation. This usually takes 05 to 15 minutes depending upon ambient temperature.
 - After clotting (sample, at room temperature and prior to centrifugation,) run a glass rod / stick along the interior wall of the bulb to disrupt clot adhesion to the tube wall.
 - For Plasma samples: Invert the Vacutainer (8 times) or Shake the test tube to mix the sample well with anticoagulant.
 - Centrifuge the sample at 2500/3000 rpm for 10-15 mins at room temperature.
 - After centrifugation, separate the serum / plasma sample with a pipette into small storage vials.
 - Label the serum / plasma sample vials.
 - Be careful not to transfer the red cells along with the plasma / serum.

Dr. Nithya Gantley
1st Jan 26

Dr Nithya Gantley
Professor & Head
Department of Clinical Pharmacology
1st Floor, MS Building
Seth GS Medical College & KEM Hospital
Parel, Mumbai 400 012

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5. Storage:

- Depending upon the intended laboratory analysis and stability of the sample, blood may be stored under a variety of conditions and for variable time. Protocol specific SOP should be followed (For example -2°C to -8°C for short term storage, -20°C medium term storage, -80°C for long term storage of samples etc)
- After processing the sample discard it as per waste management SOP (Refer SOP No / Version No. 24/06 Waste Management).
- If a sample is stable and is to be stored for a long duration the sample can be stored at in storage vials in the Deep freezer (-80°C)
- Samples should be labeled as per Annexure 1.
- If the samples are to be sent outside the department then the labeling will be laboratory specific for which data logger will be maintained.

6. Shipment of sample: -

- Blood specimens are often exposed to temperature fluctuations during transit. Appropriate temperature conditions are required for the transport of blood.
- Gel packs designed for shipment of sample are refrigerated at -20°C in the Genetics refrigerator (**REMI Refrigerator**) near TDM Laboratory.
- The specimen requiring ambient temperature are stored in normal room temperature.
- The specimen vacutainer / storage vials is placed inside the plastic zip lock bag, along with the duly filled Test Requisition Form (TRF) and kept between two frozen gel packs in a Styrofoam container.
- The frozen specimen pick-up will be done by the logistics personnel from the laboratory doing the actual processing.
- The pick-up facility is available from 9.00 a.m. to 05.00 p.m. every day except on Saturday [9.00 am to 13:00 pm] generally. However, this may vary according to the trial and trial specific SOPs will have to be followed.

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Dr Nithya Gogtay
Professor & Head
Department of Clinical Pharmacology
1st Floor, MS Building
Seth GS Medical College & KEM Hospital
Parel, Mumbai 400 012
1.1.26

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These are standard procedures. Clinical trial specific procedures should be followed as per the study protocol

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Dr Nithya Gogtay
Professor & Head
Department of Clinical Pharmacology
1st Floor, MS Building
Seth GS Medical College & KEM Hospital
Parel, Mumbai 400 012

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7. **Annexure 1:**

Specimen Label Format of Department of Clinical Pharmacology

Department of Clinical Pharmacology	
Protocol Id:	
Participant Initials:	Screening Number:
Collection Date:	Visit:
Collection time:	Specimen type:

Reviewer as appropriate:

Signature with date

R Parida
01/Jan/2026
Dr. ROOPA PARIDA
Department of Clinical Pharmacology
Seth GS Medical College & KEM Hospital,
Parel, Mumbai-400 012.

Approved by Head of Department:

Dr. Nithya Gogtay
Professor and Head

Signature with date

N ... 1. Jan/26
Dr Nithya Gogtay
Professor & Head
Department of Clinical Pharmacology
1st Floor, MS Building
Seth GS Medical College & KEM Hospital
Parel, Mumbai 400 012

