

# CENTRA CARE Laboratory Services

## Memo

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**DATE:** 8/11/2015  
**TO:** CCLS Outreach Clients  
**FROM:** CentraCare Laboratory Services-Specimen Referral Center  
**SUBJECT:** Specimen Processing for Mayo Reference Tests

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**Situation:**

CCLS has identified a LEAN process improvement opportunity related to aliquoting specimens for shipment to reference laboratories.

**Background:**

Mayo requires one test per aliquot tube due to their numerous laboratories being located in different buildings in Rochester. This practice greatly improves turn-around-time with the various labs not sharing a single tube. Also, this white-capped screw top tube is instrument-ready for Mayo's analyzers and prevents leakage during transit.

**Assessment:**

The Specimen Referral Center has recently monitored all submissions for a 3-week period to evaluate container appropriateness with the following findings.

**Tests Not Aliquoted – 30**

**Tests Incorrectly Aliquoted (wrong container type) – 18**

**Multiple Tests in One Container – 5**

**Recommendation:**

We are asking for your assistance submitting specimens as "reference lab" ready.

Helpful Tips:

- Each Mayo test (the majority are serum) will print an aliquot label with the primary label designation of SST-REF for reference test.
- Each test code is assigned to a department, which can be referenced in Sunquest Function MIQ, option 1. Testing performed at CCLS is in department C (Chemistry). Reference testing begins with a department code of SO, followed by the transport temperature to Mayo (SOR = Send-Out Refrigerated).
- Quick processing instructions are listed for each test in Sunquest Function MIQ, option 23. For users not on Sunquest, these instructions are located in our online test catalog on the CentraCare website.

# CENTRAcare Laboratory Services



## **Mayo Aliquot Tube-White Screw-Top Cap w/Volume Indicator**

- Testing performed at Mayo Medical Labs in Rochester
- One aliquot tube per test (serum or plasma for most MML testing)
- Refer to MIQ #23 for processing instructions for specific tests requiring whole blood

## **CCLS Aliquot Tube-Blue Pop-Off Cap**

- Testing performed at CCLS
- One primary draw tube or aliquot tube per accession number
- Testing examples: Vitamin B12, Folate, LH, FSH, Mag, Phos, GGT, DLDL, Iron, IBC

We appreciate your assistance. Please feel free to contact the CCLS Specimen Referral Center with any questions regarding specimen processing.

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