

## Duration of Storage

### Factors and Their Possible Consequences:

Prolonged storage may lead to hemolysis. RBC rupture may occur over time.

### Corrective Actions:

- For non-gel tubes, after centrifugation, aliquot serum or plasma to avoid continued contact with cells.
- For prolonged storage, use gel-based separator tubes to provide a barrier between the serum or plasma and blood cells.
- Chill specimens, if necessary, avoid freezing, unless recommended.

Also refer to the following section:

- Storage temperature.

### References:

1. *Collection of Diagnostic Venous Blood Specimens*; Approved Standard. 7th ed. CLSI standard GP41. Wayne, PA: Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, 2017.
2. *Procedures for the Handling and Processing of Blood Specimens*; Approved Guideline. 4th ed. CLSI standard H18-A4. Wayne, PA: Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, 2010.