



## Mitochondrial and Autoimmune Neurological Disorders Laboratory

ST VINCENT'S  
HOSPITAL  
MELBOURNE

A FACILITY OF ST VINCENT'S HEALTH AUSTRALIA



ACCREDITED FOR  
TECHNICAL  
COMPETENCE

5<sup>th</sup> Floor Daly Wing, St Vincent's Hospital  
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Tel: 9231 3366 Fax: 9231 3350



Accreditation No. 13786

### SPECIMEN HANDLING:

All incoming patient samples are to be accompanied by a requisition form provided by the abovementioned laboratory. More forms can be downloaded from the website: <https://svhm.org.au/home/health-professionals/diagnostic-services/clinical-neuroscience>

The requisition form is designed to obtain all relevant information in relation to the patient to carry out the appropriate genetic tests. Ensure all information is completed including billing. **There are no Medicare or private health care rebates for genetic testing carried out by the laboratory.**

**All Victorian, interstate and overseas referred patients will be billed. No exemptions.**

Genetic testing may have implications for family members and must be accompanied by genetic counselling.

**Clinicians are to obtain the genetic consent upon consultation and discuss billing with the patient. The patient must sign the consent and understand the billing arrangement in order to proceed with genetic testing.**

No specimens are collected by the scientific staff in the abovementioned laboratory. Please direct your patient to the nearest pathology collection centre. Please note that the requisition form is not a referral slip for specimen collection. The referring clinician must also complete centre specific pathology collection slips for the collection of any specimen. (e.g. St. Vincent's Pathology, Melbourne Pathology.)

For muscle biopsies please ensure that referral letters are sent to appropriate clinicians to book in biopsies. Contact Department of Clinical Neurosciences and Neurological Research with help on available muscle clinics and bookings on 9231 3340.

Clinicians and pathology services forwarding samples to us are to be advised that it is preferable to contact our laboratory prior to dispatch. **Laboratory hours are from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday.** The laboratory is not open on local government and federal public holidays, and there is no urgent testing without prior arrangement.

### Samples Required for genetic testing:

To be collected by the nearest pathology collection centre. Please complete a designated pathology collection slip for two or more separate specimens. See below.

### Suitable for point mutation screening:

**Blood:** request for **2x 3 ml of whole blood** (*not serum only*) in an **EDTA-treated tube** (usually a pink/purple capped tube) to be delivered immediately following collection. For samples unable to be delivered within 24 hours, blood is to be frozen at -20°C and delivered on dry ice.

**All blood sent in the wrong tube e.g. Lithium/Heparin, clot activator tubes will be rejected and a recollection requested. Blood collected in these tubes inhibit the testing.**

**Hair:** request 10-20 **hair follicles pulled** from several regions of the scalp to be delivered at room temperature in a sealed sterile specimen jar.

**Do not cut hair or stick the follicles to adherent paper or sticky tapes as the hair follicles contain the cells with DNA required in the testing.**

**Urine:** request **20-50 mls of first morning void** in sterile specimen jar. Store at 4°C for no longer than 24h. For samples unable to be delivered on the day of collection: Centrifuge at 2000g (3000rpm) for 10 min. **Carefully** remove all except 200-400 µl of urine to leave behind sediment pellet and freeze -20°C and deliver on ice.

**All urine collected at times other than the first morning void (due to the insufficient patient cells shed in the urine), stored incorrectly or not delivered within the day will be rejected and a recollection requested. Micro-organisms allowed to grow in the urine inhibit the testing.**

### Suitable for large scale deletion/s and point mutation screening:

**Referral letters from clinicians must be sent to the department to book in an appointment for the muscle biopsies.**

**It is advisable to send muscle samples for histopathological testing before genetic testing. Delivery of muscle should be pre-arranged.**

**Muscle:** request greater than 50 mg of fresh biopsies. From within the Melbourne metropolitan area biopsies are to be delivered immediately on ice; deliveries from all other hospitals to be on dry ice. Samples not available for delivery following collection are to be stored at -70°C and delivered to the laboratory on dry ice.

**The laboratory requisition form with the patient's signed consent for genetic testing and billing must accompany the specimen or can be sent/faxed to the laboratory.**