Dried Blood Spot (DBS) Preparation from Venipuncture Collected Blood

For Drug Resistance Testing in PrEP Seroconverters

PREPARE DBS MATERIALS

1. Review Procedures
   - Upon confirmation of HIV infection with PrEP client, review procedures for DBS collection. If client agrees, continue.

2. Complete Data Collection Form
   - Complete the data or lab requisition form to collect client demographic and adherence data.

3. Attach barcodes
   - Affix one barcode labeled sticker to each of the two DBS cards, data collection form, blood tube, and client’s medical file.

Collect at least 1 mL venous blood in an EDTA tube as per standard operating procedures then, proceed to steps below.

DBS PROCEDURES

4. Invert Blood
   - Gently invert the blood collection tube 2 to 4 times and then open the stopper carefully.

5. Aspirate with Pipette
   - Draw whole venous blood to the line closest to the bulb on a transfer pipette, avoiding air bubbles (approximately 50 µl).

6. Transfer to DBS Cards
   - Transfer 1-2 drops of blood to the center of each of the 5 circles (on both cards) without touching the filter paper directly. Fully saturate the circles.

DBS STORAGE AND SHIPMENT

7. Store on Drying Rack
   - Store DBS card on drying rack with blood spots facing up and dry the DBS card at room temperature overnight, or for a minimum of 3 hours.

8. Protect Samples
   - Insert the dried card into the sealable plastic bag with the desiccant and humidifier indicator.

9. Ship to Laboratory
   - Insert the sealed plastic DBS bag and the data collection form in the envelope provided and mail the envelope immediately, or within 3 days.

Visit the GEMS Website for more information about PrEP and Drug Resistance: http://gems.pitt.edu

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