

PACT Manual of Procedures Update: V03.30.2026

Section	Change
Section 3.0	Updated contact information.
Section 5.1	Corrected number of Collection tube/aliquot tube labels in blood kit.
Section 5.1	Updated warning label packet to specify each type of label in frozen shipping kit and individual supplies. Added Fragile label to individual supplies. Updated dry ice label to UPS dry ice label.
Section 5.2	Changed “2 to 3 weeks” to “3 weeks”
Section 5.3	Added statement about how the study will be charged if the sites send empty tubes.
Section 6.1	Updated label pictures to show new barcode format.
Section 7.1	Replaced “dry ice” language with “pelleted dry ice.”



Preventing Alzheimer's Disease with Cognitive Training: The PACT Trial

in collaboration with the

National Centralized Repository for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias



Biospecimen Collection, Processing, and Shipment Manual of Procedures

Version 03.30.2026

Table of Contents

PACT Manual of Procedures Update: V03.30.2026	1
1.0 Abbreviations	4
2.0 Purpose	5
3.0 NCRAD Information	6
3.1 NCRAD Contacts	6
3.2 NCRAD Hours of Operation	6
3.3 NCRAD Holiday Observations	7
4.0 PACT Laboratory Collection	7
4.1 Site Required Equipment.....	7
4.2 Biospecimens Sent to NCRAD.....	8
4.2.1 Biofluid Collection Schedule.....	8
4.2.2 Biofluid Collection Charts.....	9
5.0 Specimen Collection Kits, Shipping Kits, and Supplies.....	9
5.1 NCRAD Specimen Collection Kit Contents	9
5.2 Kit Supply to Study Sites	11
5.3 Filling Cryovials.....	11
6.0 Blood Collection and Processing Procedures.....	13
6.1 Labeling Samples	13
6.2 Whole Blood Collection with 10 ml EDTA (Purple-Top) Tube for Plasma and Buffy Coat 15	
6.3 Sample Processing Electronic Data Capture Submission Instructions	20
7.0 Packaging & Shipping Instructions.....	20
7.1 Frozen Packaging Instructions	20
7.1.1 NCRAD Packaging Instructions – Frozen Shipments	21
7.2 Frozen Shipping Instructions	24
7.3 Frozen Shipment Notification Electronic Data Capture Submission Instructions	26
8.0 Data Queries and Reconciliation	26
9.0 Appendices.....	26
Appendix A: Rate of Centrifuge Worksheet	28
Appendix B: Blood Sample and Shipment Notification Form.....	29

1.0 Abbreviations

AD	Alzheimer's Disease
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
EDTA	Ethylene Diamine Tetra-acetic Acid
HII	Health Informatics Institute
IATA	International Air Transport Association
NCRAD	National Centralized Repository for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias
PACT	Preventing Alzheimer's Disease with Cognitive Training
PHI	Protected Health Information
RBC	Red Blood Cells
RCF	Relative Centrifugal Force
RPM	Revolutions Per Minute

2.0 Purpose

The collection of biofluids is an important part of the Preventing Alzheimer’s Disease with Cognitive Training (PACT) Study. The purpose of this manual is to provide study staff (PIs, study coordinators, phlebotomists) at the various study sites with instructions for collection and submission of biological samples for PACT study visits. It includes instructions for biofluid submission to NCRAD located in Indianapolis at Indiana University.

The following samples will be sent to NCRAD:

- Plasma
- Buffy Coat (DNA Extraction)

This manual includes instructions for collection of blood, fractionation of blood from collection tubes, aliquoting, labeling, storage prior to shipping, and shipping to NCRAD.

These procedures are relevant to all study personnel responsible for processing specimens provided to NCRAD for the PACT protocol.

3.0 NCRAD Information

3.1 NCRAD Contacts

Tatiana Foroud, PhD, Core Leader

Phone: 317-274-2218

Kelley Faber, MS, CCRC, Project Manager

Phone: 317-274-7360

Email: kelfaber@iu.edu

Jordan Glogoz, BS, CCRC, Clinical Research Coordinator

Email: joglogoz@iu.edu

General NCRAD Contact Information

Phone: 1-800-526-2839/317-278-8413

Fax: 317-321-2003

Email: alzstudy@iu.edu

Website: www.ncrad.org

PACT Webpage: <https://ncrad.org/coordinate-studies/pact>

Sample Shipment Mailing Address

PACT at NCRAD

Indiana University School of Medicine

351 W. 10th St. TK-342

Indianapolis, IN 46202

Phone: 1-800-526-2839

3.2 NCRAD Hours of Operation

Indiana University business hours are from 8 AM to 5 PM Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

Frozen samples must be shipped **Monday-Wednesday only**.

For packing and shipment details of samples, please refer to [Section 7.0](#) of this protocol.

Check the weather report to make sure impending weather events (blizzards, hurricanes, etc.) will not impact the shipping or delivery of the samples.

3.3 NCRAD Holiday Observations

Date	Holiday
January 1	New Year's Day
3 rd Monday in January	Martin Luther King, Jr Day
4 th Monday in May	Memorial Day
June 19	Juneteenth
July 4	Independence Day (observed)
1 st Monday in September	Labor Day
4 th Thursday in November	Thanksgiving
4 th Friday in November	Friday after Thanksgiving
December 25	Christmas Day
December 26-31	Winter Break

Please note that between December 24th and January 2nd, Indiana University will be open Monday through Friday for essential operations **ONLY** and will re-open for normal operations on January 2nd. If possible, biological specimens for submission to Indiana University should **NOT** be collected and shipped to Indiana University after the second week in December. Should it be necessary to ship samples to Indiana University during this period, please contact the Indiana University staff before December 20th by e-mailing alzstudy@iu.edu, so that they can arrange to have staff available to process incoming samples. **Please see:** <https://ncrad.org/contact/holiday-closures> for additional information.

- Please note that courier services may observe a different set of holidays.
- Please be sure to verify shipping dates with your courier prior to any holiday.
- **Weekend/holiday delivery must be arranged in advance with NCRAD staff.**

4.0 PACT Laboratory Collection

4.1 Site Required Equipment

The following materials and equipment are necessary for the processing of specimens at the collection site and are to be **supplied by the local site**:

- Personal Protective Equipment: lab coat, nitrile/latex gloves, safety glasses
- Tourniquet
- Alcohol Prep Pad
- Gauze Pad
- Bandage
- Butterfly needles and hub
- Microcentrifuge tube rack
- Sharps bin and lid

- Wet Ice Bucket
- Wet ice
- Pelleted dry ice

In order to process samples consistently across all projects and ensure the highest quality samples possible, project sites must have access to the following equipment:

- Centrifuge capable of $\geq 2000 \times g$ with refrigeration to 4°C
- -80°C Freezer

In order to ship specimens, you must provide:

- Pelleted dry ice (approximately 45 lbs. per shipment)

4.2 Biospecimens Sent to NCRAD

Samples are to be submitted according to the shipping methods outlined in [Section 7.0](#). Guidelines for the processing, storage location, and timing of sample collection are listed in the tables below.

4.2.1 Biofluid Collection Schedule

Biospecimen Collection Table

Biospecimen	All Visits
Plasma	X
Buffy Coat (DNA)	X

Whole blood is collected in two collection tubes (two 10 ml purple-top EDTA tubes) for shipment to NCRAD. The 10 ml EDTA tubes are processed locally into plasma, and buffy coat fractions; they are then aliquoted, frozen at the study site, and shipped to NCRAD.

Consent forms must specify that any biological samples and de-identified clinical data may be shared with academic and/or industry collaborators through NCRAD. Recommended consent language can be found on the NCRAD website at: <https://ncrad.org/bank-samples/sample-management/recommended-consent-language> copy of the consent form for each participant should be kept on file by the site investigator.

Collection Tube	Drawn At	Specimen Type	Aliquot Volume	Total Number of Aliquots	Shipping Temperature
2 EDTA (Purple-Top) Blood Collection Tubes (10 ml)	All visits	Plasma	1.5 ml plasma aliquots	Up to 7	Frozen
	All visits	Buffy Coat	~1.0 ml buffy coat aliquots	2	Frozen

5.0 Specimen Collection Kits, Shipping Kits, and Supplies

NCRAD will provide: 1) Blood sample collection kits for research specimens to be stored at NCRAD, the Blood Supplemental Supply Kit, the Frozen Shipment Kit and 2) clinical lab supplies (with the exception of pelleted dry ice and equipment supplies listed in [Section 4.1](#)). The provided materials include blood tubes, pipettes, boxes for plasma/buffy coat aliquots, as well as partially completed shipping labels to send materials to NCRAD. Kit number labels, Participant ID labels, and cryovial labels will all be provided by NCRAD. Details regarding the blood kits are found in this Manual of Procedures. Cryovial labels will be preprinted with study information specific to the type of sample being drawn. Ensure that all tubes are properly labeled during processing and at the time of shipment according to [Section 6.1](#).

5.1 NCRAD Specimen Collection Kit Contents

Collection kits contain the following (for each participant) and provide the necessary supplies to collect samples from a given participant. Do not replace or supplement any of the tubes or kit components provided with your own supplies unless you have received approval from the NCRAD Study team to do so. Please store all kits at room temperature until use.

PACT Collection Blood Kit

Quantity	Blood Kit Components
2	EDTA tube, 10ml with purple cap
6	Cryovial (2.0 ml) with lavender cap
1	Cryovial (2.0 ml) with blue cap
2	Cryovial (2.0 ml) with clear cap
1	Centrifuge tube, 15ml
11	Preprinted Collection tube labels/Cryovial labels
5	Kit Number Labels
3	Participant ID Labels

Quantity	Blood Kit Components
1	Cryovial box (holds up to 25 cryovials)
2	Disposable graduated transfer pipette
1	Resealable plastic bag

NCRAD Frozen Shipping Supply Kit

Quantity	Frozen Shipping Kit Components for Blood-Based Biomarkers
8	Plastic Biohazard bag with absorbent sheet (small)
1	UPS return airbill and pouch
1	Shipping box/Styrofoam container
1	Warning label packet (Fragile, UN3373 labels) w/ UPS dry ice label

PACT Supplemental Supply Kit

Quantity	Supplemental Supply Kit Components
10	EDTA tube, 10ml
30	Cryovial (2.0 ml) with lavender cap
5	Cryovial (2.0 ml) with blue cap
10	Cryovial (2.0 ml) with clear cap
5	Centrifuge tube, 15ml
10	Participant ID labels
5	Cryovial box (holds up to 25 cryovials)
10	Disposable graduated transfer pipette
5	Resealable plastic bag

Individual Supplies

Quantities	Items Available upon request within the NCRAD kit module
By Request	Cryovial box (holds up to 25 cryovials)
By Request	Cryovial (2.0 ml) with lavender cap
By Request	Cryovial (2.0 ml) with blue cap
By Request	Cryovial (2.0 ml) with clear cap
By Request	UPS return airbill
By Request	UPS Laboratory Pak
By Request	Shipping container for dry ice shipment (shipping and Styrofoam box)
By Request	Plastic biohazard bag with absorbent sheet (small)
By Request	Disposable graduated transfer pipette
By Request	EDTA (Purple-Top) Blood Collection Tube (10 ml)
By Request	Centrifuge tube, 15ml
By Request	Warning label packet (Fragile, UN3373, UPS Dry Ice label)
By Request	UN3373 label

Quantities	Items Available upon request within the NCRAD kit module
By Request	Fragile label
By Request	UPS dry ice shipping label
By Request	Fine Point Permanent Markers
By Request	Participant ID Labels

5.2 Kit Supply to Study Sites

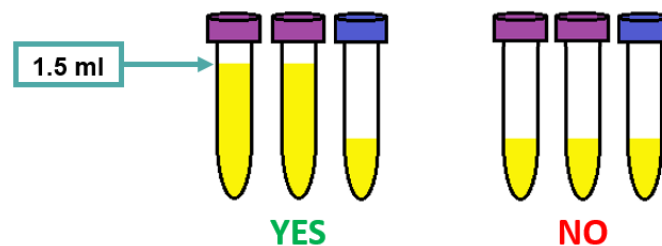
Each site will be responsible for ordering and maintaining a steady supply of kits from NCRAD. We advise sites to keep a supply of each kit type available. Be sure to check your supplies and order additional materials before you run out or supplies expire so you are prepared for study visits. Please go to: kits.iu.edu/PACT to request additional kits and follow the prompts to request the desired supplies.

Please allow **THREE WEEKS** for kit orders to be processed and delivered.

5.3 Filling Cryovials

In order to ensure that NCRAD receives a sufficient amount of sample for processing and storage, and to avoid cracking of the tubes prior to shipment, each aliquot tube should be filled to the assigned volume after processing is completed (refer to detailed processing instructions for average yield per sample). Over-filled tubes may burst once placed in the freezer, resulting in a loss of sample.

Aliquot the remaining biologic material as the residual volume and ship to NCRAD. Ship *all* material to NCRAD. Fill as many aliquot tubes as possible. For example, if 2.7 ml of a plasma sample is obtained, fill 1 cryovial with 1.5 ml, and one additional cryovial with the remaining 1.2 ml.



Please note: It is critical for the integrity of future studies using these samples that study staff note if an aliquot tube contains a residual volume (anything under 1.5 ml). Please highlight that the aliquot contains a small volume by utilizing the blue cryovial cap provided in each kit. Please record the last four digits of the residual aliquot on the Biological Sample and Notification Form.

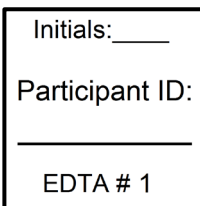
If there are any unused cryovials, please do not send the empty cryovials to NCRAD. Our lab charges the study for the destruction of these empty tubes. These unused cryovials (ensure labels are removed) can be saved as part of a supplemental supply at your site or the cryovials can be disposed of per your site’s requirements.

To assist in the preparation and aliquoting of samples, colored caps are used for the aliquot tubes. The chart below summarizes the association between cap color and aliquot specimen type.

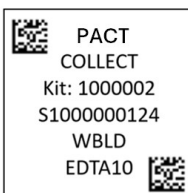
Cap Color	Sample Type
Lavender	Plasma
Clear	Buffy Coat
Blue	Residual sample plasma



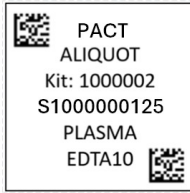
1. Kit Number Labels tie together all specimens collected from one participant at one visit. Place one kit number label on each cryobox. Place another kit number label in the designated location on the Appendix B: Blood Sample and Shipment Notification Forms.



2. Participant ID Labels are used to document the individual’s unique study participant ID and the blood processing staff initials. Place one label on each blood collection tube.



3. Collection Tube Label include the collection specimen type, kit number, and specimen barcodes. Place one collection tube label on each 10 ml EDTA blood collection tube.



- Aliquot Cryovial Label** include the processed specimen type, on each aliquot cryovial with corresponding specimen type. Place one aliquot cryovial label on corresponding specimen 2 ml cryovial.

6.0 Blood Collection and Processing Procedures

6.1 Labeling Samples

In order to ensure the highest quality samples are collected, it is essential to follow the specific collection and shipment procedures detailed in the following pages. Please read the following instructions first before collecting any specimens. Have all your supplies and equipment out and prepared prior to drawing blood.

Label Type Summary	
1.	Kit Number Label
2.	Participant ID Label
3.	Collection Tube Label
4.	Aliquot Cryovial Label

Specimen Type	Specimen Abbreviation	Container/Cap Color
Whole Blood	WBLD	EDTA 10 ml/purple cap
Plasma	PLA	Cryovial 2ml/purple cap
Buffy Coat	BUF	Cryovial 2ml/clear cap

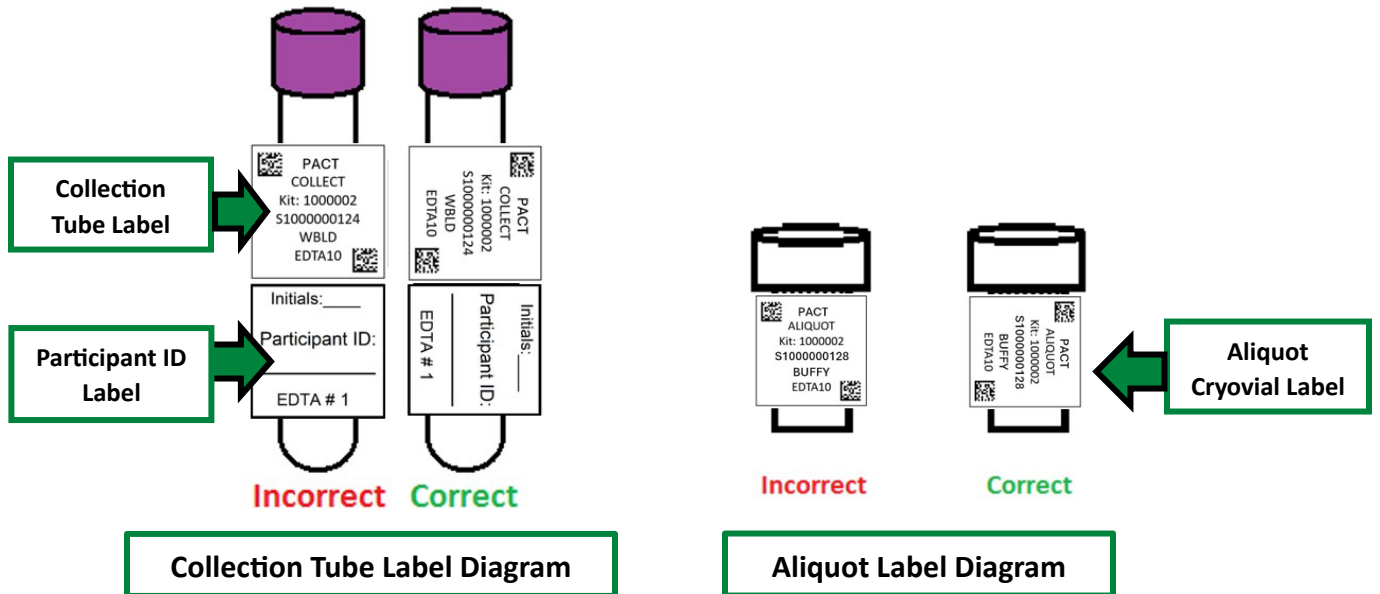
Each EDTA collection tube will contain two labels: the collection tube label and the Participant ID Label. Be sure to place labels in the same configuration consistently among tubes, with the barcoded label near the top of the tube and the handwritten Site and Participant ID label near the bottom of the tube.

Each aliquot cryovial will contain one label: the aliquot label is specimen specific and contains a unique barcode and number. Be sure that the specimen type, aliquot cap color, and specimen label correspond according to protocol.

In order to ensure the label adheres properly and remains on the tube, please follow these instructions:

- Place all labels on **ALL** collection tubes and cryovials **BEFORE** sample collection. This should help to ensure the label properly adheres to the tube before exposure to moisture or different temperatures.
- Using a fine point permanent marker, fill-in and place the Participant ID labels on the EDTA (purple-top) tubes **BEFORE** sample collection. These labels are placed on collection tubes in addition to the cryovial label.
- The cryovial labels contain a 2D barcode on the left-hand side of the label. Place this barcode toward the tube cap.
- Place label **horizontally** on the tube (wrapped around sideways if the tube is upright).

Take a moment to ensure the label is **completely adhered** to each tube. It may be helpful to roll the tube between your fingers after applying the label.



6.2 Whole Blood Collection with 10 ml EDTA (Purple-Top) Tube for Plasma and Buffy Coat

1. Store empty EDTA tubes at room temperature, 64°F - 77°F (18 °C – 25 °C) before use. Verify all supplies have not expired before use.
2. Set centrifuge to 4°C to pre-chill before use.
3. Place completed **Participant ID** Label and preprinted **Collection Tube** label on each purple-top EDTA tube. Place preprinted **PLASMA** cryovial labels on the six 2 ml cryovial tubes with lavender caps and one 2 ml cryovial tube with blue cap (if necessary, for residual). Place preprinted **BUFFY COAT** cryovial label on the 2 ml cryovials with clear caps.
4. Using a blood collection set and a holder, collect blood into the **EDTA (Purple-Top) Blood Collection Tube (10 ml)** using your institution's recommended procedure for standard venipuncture technique.

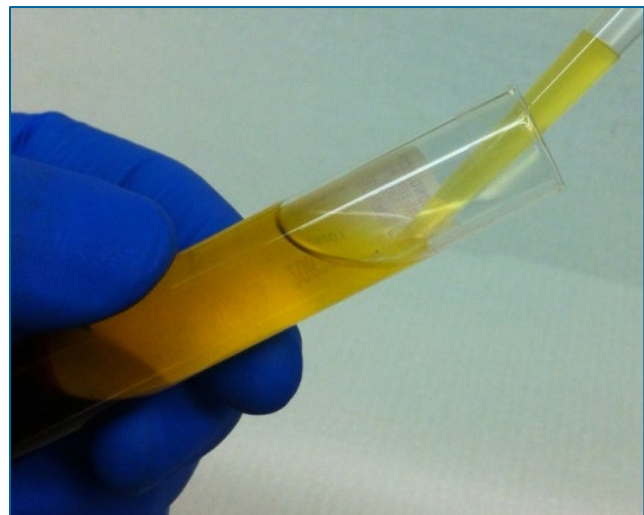
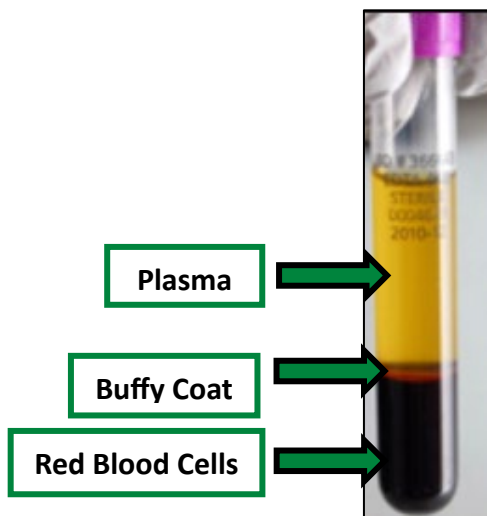
The following techniques shall be used to prevent possible backflow:

- a. Place participant's arm in a downward position.
 - b. Hold tube in a vertical position, below the participant's arm during blood collection.
 - c. Release tourniquet as soon as blood starts to flow into last collection tube.
 - d. Make sure tube additives found on the inside surface of the EDTA tube are not in contact with the stopper or end of the needle during venipuncture.
5. Allow at least 10 seconds for a complete blood draw to take place in each tube. **Ensure that the blood has stopped flowing into the tube before removing the tube from the holder.** The tube with its vacuum is designed to draw 10 ml of blood into the tube.
 - a. If complications arise during the blood draw, please note the difficulties on the 'Biological Sample and Shipment Notification Form'. Do not attempt to draw an additional EDTA tube at this time. Process blood obtained in existing EDTA tube.
 6. Immediately after blood collection, gently invert/mix (180 degree turns) the EDTA tube 8-10 times.
 7. Immediately after inverting the EDTA tube, place it on wet ice until centrifugation begins.

8. Centrifuge balanced tubes for 10 minutes at 2000 x g at 4°C. **It is critical that the tubes be centrifuged at the appropriate speed and temperature to ensure proper plasma separation (see worksheet in [Appendix A](#) to calculate RPM.)**
 - a. Equivalent rpm for spin at 2000 x g
 - b. While centrifuging, remember to record all times, temperatures and spin rates on the Biological Sample and Shipment Notification Form.
 - c. Record original volume drawn for each tube in spaces provided on the Biological Sample Shipment and Notification Form.
 - d. Plasma samples need to be spun, aliquoted, and placed in the freezer within 2 hours from the time of collection.
 - e. Record time aliquoted on the Biological Sample Shipment and Notification Form.

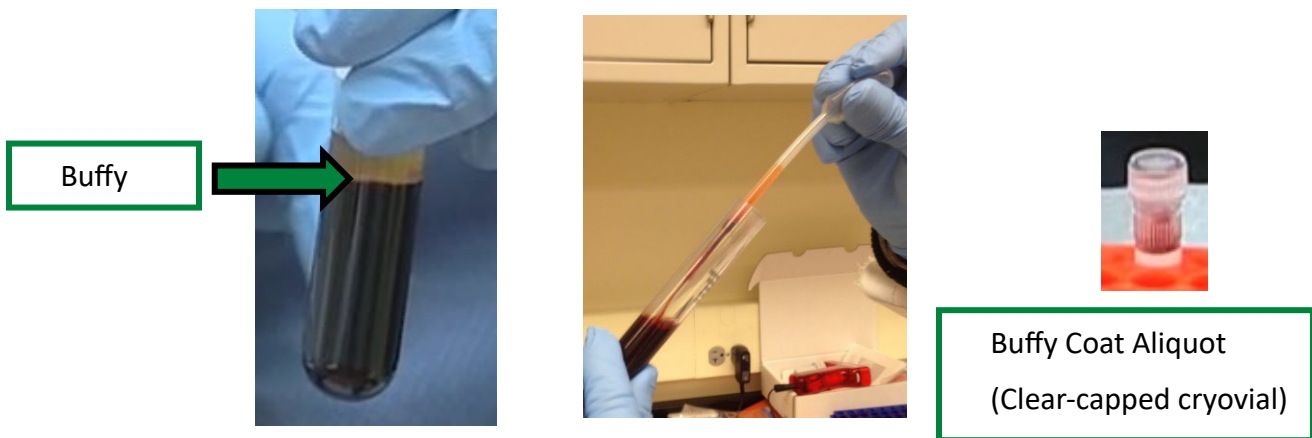
9. Remove the plasma by tilting the tube and placing the pipette tip along the lower side of the wall being careful not to agitate the packed red blood cells at the bottom of the collection tube.

10. Each EDTA tube should yield, on average, 4-5 ml of plasma. Transfer plasma from both EDTA tubes into the 15 ml conical tube and gently invert 3 times. Aliquot 1.5 ml plasma per cryovial. Be sure to only place **plasma** in cryovials with lavender caps and labeled with **PLASMA** labels. Place residual plasma (<1.5 ml) in the blue-capped cryovial. **If a residual aliquot (<1.5 ml) is created, document the specimen number and volume on the Biological Sample and Shipment Notification Form.**



NOTE: When pipetting plasma from the EDTA tube into the 15 ml conical tube, be very careful to pipette the plasma top layer only, leaving the buffy coat and the red blood cell layers untouched.

11. Place the labeled cryovials in the 25 cell cryobox and place on pelleted dry ice. **Transfer to -80°C Freezer when possible.** Store all samples at **-80°C until shipped** to NCRAD on pelleted dry ice. Record time aliquots placed in freezer and storage temperature of freezer on Biological Sample Shipment and Notification Form.
12. After plasma has been removed from the EDTA (Purple-Top) Blood Collection Tubes (10 ml), aliquot the buffy coat layer (in the top layer of cells, the buffy coat is mixed with RBCs-see figure) from one EDTA tube into a labeled, clear-capped cryovial using a micropipette. The buffy coat aliquot is expected to have a reddish color from the RBCs. Be sure to only place the buffy coat from one EDTA tube into each cryovial. Repeat this step for the second EDTA tube, placing this buffy coat into the second clear-capped cryovial.

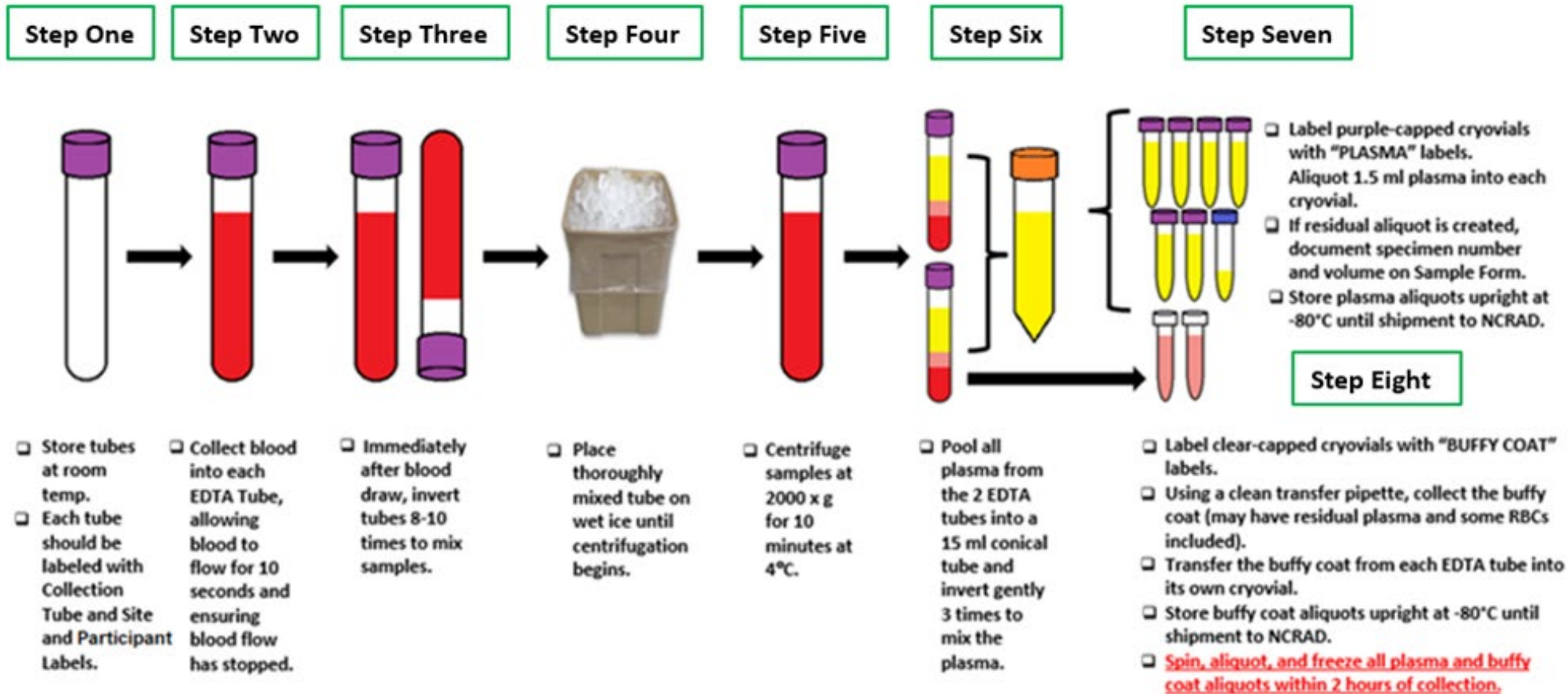


13. Dispose of collection tube with red blood cell pellet and unused cryovials according to your site's guidelines for disposing of biomedical waste.
14. Record the specimen number and volumes of the EDTA tubes and corresponding buffy coat samples on the Biological Sample Shipment and Notification Form.
15. Place the labeled cryovials in the 25 cell cryobox and place on pelleted dry ice. **Transfer to -80°C Freezer when possible.** Store all samples at -80°C until shipped to NCRAD on pelleted dry ice. Record time aliquots placed in freezer

Plasma Aliquots (up to 7 possible) and Buffy Coats (2)



Plasma and Buffy Coat Preparation EDTA Purple-Top Tube (10 ml)



6.3 Sample Processing Electronic Data Capture Submission Instructions

1. After the handwritten copy of the Appendix B is completed, click here: <https://redcap.link/PACTSampleForm> to report the data electronically. This data is required to be reported promptly after specimens have been processed.
2. Enter the appropriate site information, participant information, visit information, collection volumes, processing information, aliquoting information, and freezing time.
3. Record any deviations from the protocol during collection, processing, and freezing of samples in the “Notes” section if applicable.
4. Click “Submit”.

7.0 Packaging & Shipping Instructions

ALL study personnel responsible for shipping should be certified in biospecimen shipping. If you have difficulty finding biospecimen shipping training, please notify a NCRAD coordinator.

In addition to tracking and reconciliation of samples, the condition and number of samples received are tracked by NCRAD for each sample type. Investigators and clinical coordinators for each project are responsible to ensure the requested amounts of each fluid are collected to the best of their ability and that frozen samples are packed with sufficient amounts of pelleted dry ice to avoid thawing in the shipment process.

7.1 Frozen Packaging Instructions

The most important issue for shipping is to maintain the temperature of the samples. The frozen samples must never thaw; not even the outside of the tubes should be allowed to defrost. This is best accomplished by making sure the Styrofoam container is filled completely with pelleted dry ice.

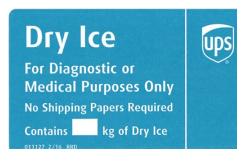
*****Important Note*****
FROZEN SAMPLES MUST BE SHIPPED MONDAY-WEDNESDAY ONLY!

Specimens being shipped to NCRAD should be considered as Category B UN3373 specimens and as such must be tripled packaged and compliant with IATA Packing

Triple packaging consists of a primary receptacle(s), a secondary packaging, and a rigid outer packaging. The primary receptacles must be packed in secondary packaging in such a way that, under normal conditions of transport, they cannot break, be punctured, or leak their contents into the secondary packaging. Secondary packaging must be secured in outer packaging with suitable cushioning material. Any leakage of the contents must not compromise the integrity of the cushioning material or of the outer packaging.

***** Packing and Labeling Guidelines *****

- The primary receptacle (cryovial) must be leak proof and must not contain more than 1L total.
- The secondary packaging (biohazard bag) must be leak proof and if multiple blood tubes are placed in a single secondary packaging, they must be either individually wrapped or separated to prevent direct contact with adjacent blood tubes.
- Absorbent material must be placed between the primary receptacle and the secondary packaging. The absorbent material should be of sufficient quantity in order to absorb the entire contents of the specimens being shipped. Examples of absorbent material are paper towels, absorbent pads, cotton balls, or cellulose wadding.
- A shipping manifest of specimens being shipped must be included between the secondary and outer packaging.
- The outer shipping container must display the following labels:
 - ✓ Sender’s name and address
 - ✓ Recipient’s name and address
 - ✓ Responsible Person
 - ✓ The words “Biological Substance, Category B”
 - ✓ UN3373
 - ✓ UPS Dry Ice label and net weight of pelleted dry ice contained



7.1.1 NCRAD Packaging Instructions – Frozen Shipments

1. If possible, hold packaged samples in -80°C freezer until time of UPS pick-up/drop-off. If storage in a -80°C freezer until UPS pick-up is not possible, package samples no more than 4 hours before the expected pick-up time.

2. Contact UPS to confirm service is available and schedule package to be picked up.
3. Place the cryovial boxes containing frozen samples into a biohazard bag.
4. As the cryovial box is placed in the plastic biohazard bag, do NOT remove the absorbent material found in the bag. Seal according to the instructions on the bag.



5. Place approximately 2-3 inches of pelleted dry ice in the bottom of the Styrofoam shipping container.
6. Place the biohazard bags into the provided Styrofoam-lined shipping container on top of the pelleted dry ice. Please ensure that cryovial boxes are placed so the cryovials are upright in the shipping container.
 - a. If needed, cryovial boxes can be placed into the shipper in layers with pelleted dry ice between each layer of samples to fit 8 cryovial boxes in each shipper.
7. Fully cover the biohazard bags containing the cryovial boxes tubes with approximately 2 inches of pelleted dry ice.
8. After the samples have been placed into the shipping container, fill the inner Styrofoam with plenty of dry ice pellets to ensure the frozen state of the specimens during transit.

9. Replace the lid on the Styrofoam carton. Place a copy of each completed Blood Sample and Shipment Notification Form in the package on top of the Styrofoam lid for each participant specimen, then close and seal the outer cardboard shipping carton with packing tape.
10. Complete the UPS Dry Ice Label with the following information:
 - a. Net weight of pelleted dry ice in kg (must match amount on the airbill)
 - b. Do not cover any part of this label with other stickers, including preprinted address labels.
11. Apply all provided warning labels and the preprinted UPS return airbill to the outside of package, taking care not to overlap labels.

Important Note:
Complete the required fields on the UPS Dry Ice label or UPS may reject or return your package.

12. Hold packaged samples in -80°C freezer until time of UPS pick-up/drop-off.



13. Specimens should be sent to the below address via UPS Next Day Air. Frozen shipments should be sent Monday through Wednesday to avoid shipping delays on Thursday or Friday.

PACT at NCRAD
Indiana University School of Medicine
351 W. 10th St. TK-342
Indianapolis, IN 46202

14. Use UPS tracking to ensure the delivery occurs as scheduled and is received by NCRAD.

6. Verify that both the shipping information AND study reference are correct for this shipment.
 - a. If wrong study contact or study reference, click Reset in the bottom right of the screen to research for the correct information.

7. Enter Package Information
 - a. Frozen shipments
 - i. Enter the total weight of your package in the “Weight” field.
 - ii. Enter the dry ice weight in the “Dry Ice Weight” field.
 - iii. If the “Dry Ice Weight” field is higher than the “Weight” field, you will receive an error message after clicking Ship and need to reenter these values.
 - b. Click Ship in the bottom right of the page when complete.

8. If your site does not already have a daily UPS pickup, you can schedule one here.
 - a. Click the blue Pickup Request button. Enter the earliest pickup time and latest pickup time in 24-hr format.
 - b. Give a name & phone number of someone who the UPS driver can call if having issues finding the package
 - c. Give the Floor and Room Number (if needed) to be as descriptive as possible where this package needs to be picked up from. Click Save.

9. Print the airbill that is automatically downloaded.
 - a. To reprint airbill, click History at the top left of the page.
 - i. Shipments created from the user that day will automatically populate. If shipments from a previous day need to be located, search by ship date.
 - ii. Locate the correct shipment, and click on the printer icon to the left of the tracking number under “Action” to reprint the airbill
 - iii. Click print icon on right side of the tracking number line.

10. Fold airbill, and place inside plastic UPS sleeve. Peel the back off of the UPS sleeve and stick the sleeve to the package.

7.3 Frozen Shipment Notification Electronic Data Capture Submission Instructions

1. Click here: <https://redcap.link/NCRADShippingForm> to submit the electronic shipment notification form. This is required to be submitted *prior* to each NCRAD shipment.
2. Record the appropriate contact information, shipping information, kit numbers, and participant IDs.
3. Upload a single zip file including each handwritten Appendix B for the participant samples included in the reported shipment.
4. Enter “Shipment Date”.
5. Click “Submit”.

8.0 Data Queries and Reconciliation

It is a requirement to submit sample processing information recorded on the Appendix B via the electronic sample form found here: <https://redcap.link/PACTSampleForm> promptly after processing samples. It is also a requirement to submit the frozen shipment notification electronic form found here:

<https://redcap.link/NCRADShippingForm> prior to each UPS shipment. You will also include a physical copy for each handwritten Appendix B for each participant sample inside of the UPS shipping box on top of the Styrofoam container with each shipment.

NCRAD will collaborate with the data team at Health Informatics Institute (HII) to reconcile information captured in the HII database compared to samples received and logged at NCRAD. Additional discrepancies may be sent directly to the site staff to reconcile.

Data queries or discrepancies with samples shipped and received at NCRAD may result from:

- Incorrect samples collected and shipped
- Damaged or incorrectly prepared samples
- Unlabeled samples, samples labeled with incomplete information, or mislabeled samples
- Discrepant information documented on the Blood Sample and Shipment Notification Form and logged at NCRAD compared to information entered into the HII database

9.0 Appendices

[Appendix A: Rate of Centrifuge Worksheet](#)





Biospecimen Collection, Processing, and Shipment Manual
Appendix A: Rate of Centrifuge Worksheet

Please complete and return this form by fax or email to the NCRAD Project Manager if you have any questions regarding sample processing. The correct RPM will be sent back to you.

Submitter Information

Name:

Site:

Submitter e-mail:

Centrifuge Information

Please answer the following questions about your centrifuge.

Centrifuge Type

Fixed Angle Rotor:

Swing Bucket Rotor:

Radius of Rotation (mm):

Determine the centrifuge's radius of rotation (in mm) by measuring distance from the center of the centrifuge spindle to the bottom of the device when inserted into the rotor (if measuring a swing bucket rotor, measure to the middle of the bucket).

Calculating RPM from G-Force:

$$RCF = \left(\frac{RPM}{1,000} \right)^2 \times r \times 1.118 \Rightarrow RPM = \sqrt{\frac{RCF}{r \times 1.118}} \times 1,000$$

RCF = Relative Centrifugal Force (G-Force)

RPM = Rotational Speed (revolutions per minute)

R = Centrifugal radius in mm = distance from the center of the turning axis to the bottom of centrifuge

Comments:

Please send this form to NCRAD Study Coordinator

317-321-2003 (Fax)

alzstudy@iu.edu

Appendix B: Blood Sample and Shipment Notification Form

Please find the Appendix B: Blood Sample and Shipment Notification Form at the following link:

<https://usf.app.box.com/file/1496941045877>

Please email or fax the form on or prior to the date of shipment.

To: Kelley Faber Email: alzstudy@iu.edu Phone: 1-800-526-2839/317-278-8413