

Doctors can order a White Blood Cell Cystine Level Collection Kit from Horizon Pharma for their patients. In this video, we will go over the correct way for the doctor, patient, and lab that draws your blood to use the kit. This will help ensure your blood arrives properly at a specialty lab for cystine level testing.

Doctors must order one of two cystine level tests for their patients—either a granulocytes test, which will be sent to the University of California San Diego or a mixed leukocytes test, which will be sent to Baylor Genetics.

The collection kit will be sent to the doctor's office. Before giving the patient the kit, the doctor must complete the requisition form inside. This serves as an official order for the cystine level test and must be brought to the lab.

The doctor should also review the patient instructions included in the kit with the patient before their blood-draw appointment.

Patients should schedule appointments to get their blood drawn Monday through Thursday. They should not schedule appointments on a Friday, weekend, or the day before a holiday. This ensures that the specialty lab analyzing the blood sample will be open when the sample arrives.

The time of day that blood is drawn is also important.

The appointment should be scheduled right before the patient's next dose of cystine-depleting therapy, when cystine in the blood approaches its highest level.

Patients should work with their doctors to determine the best time to have their blood drawn.

Patients should also check with the lab that their appointment is early enough for FedEx to ship their blood sample on the same day.

If the doctor suggests getting blood drawn at a Quest lab, there's a Quest lab envelope in the collection kit that patients should hand to lab staff at their appointment.

The kit includes instructions that explain how to use the supplies inside to properly prepare the specimen, package it, and ship it to the specialty lab promptly.

Lab staff should remove the NanoCool cooling engine from the kit and set it aside, foil-side down. They should not remove the foil from the cooling engine. And they should not press the button yet because that could activate the engine prematurely.

Lab staff should draw 3 to 5 milliliters of whole blood, depending on the patient's age. After the blood is drawn, they must fill out the specimen label and attach it to the tube.

They should then place the tube, along with the requisition form and absorbent strip, into the bag and seal it.

Next, lab staff should place the bag containing the blood sample into the cooling chamber at the bottom of the box.

Now is the time for lab staff to activate the cooling engine by pushing straight down on the button.

Lab staff must check that the cooling engine is cooling. It is working if the logo turns blue. It should also feel cool about one minute after activation. If it doesn't, the blood sample should not be shipped.

Lab staff should ship the blood sample cool, but never frozen.

Next, lab staff should place the cooling engine into the box, foil-side up and button-side down.

Then they should close it and seal the kit box.

Remember, the kit must be shipped the same day the blood is drawn. A prepaid FedEx label is attached to the box.

Now, let's review some key points to ensure that your blood sample arrives at the specialty lab properly.

Doctors must complete the appropriate requisition form before patients get their blood drawn.

Patients should schedule blood draws early in the day Monday through Thursday so the blood sample can be shipped the same day.

Patients should schedule their blood draw right before their next dose of cystine-depleting therapy.

Patients should bring the kit and requisition form to their appointment.

Lab staff must check to be sure the cooling engine feels cool. If it isn't cool, the blood sample should not be shipped.

Lab staff must cool the blood sample immediately in the NanoCool unit, but not freeze it.

They must ship the kit the same day that blood is drawn.

Test results will be shared with doctors, never with Horizon Pharma.

Patients with questions about cystine level testing or test results should contact their doctor.

For questions about the kit, connect with Horizon Pharma at connect@HorizonPharma.com or call a Patient Access Manager at 844-830-CARE. That's 844-830-2273.