

## Sample Requirements

Samples must be labelled with:

- the patient's full name
- the patient's date of birth
- NHS or genetics number
- date and time sample was collected

**Blood:** Please send at least two 4ml EDTA blood samples (1ml minimum for neonates, 5-10ml for children and 10-20ml for adults). **Samples should be transported at ambient temperature.** Blood samples in glass bottles are not accepted by the laboratory. Blood samples should be received by our laboratory **within 5 days of venesection.** Do not freeze blood samples – if storage is required prior to dispatch, blood samples can be stored at 4°C (39.2°F).

**DNA:** Please send a minimum of 5µg of DNA. **DNA samples can be sent at room temperature.**

**Other:** In special circumstances, a **saliva sample** is acceptable. Please contact the laboratory for sample collection kits ([Oragene](#)). Please contact the laboratory prior to sending any other samples (e.g. paraffin-embedded tissue sections).

**Please send samples by first class post or courier.** Packaging should comply with UN3373 regulations for packaging and transportation of samples (See Table A4 in '[Biological agents: managing the risks in laboratories and healthcare premises](#)':

1. The sample should be wrapped in enough tissue to absorb the entire contents of the tube in the event of a breakage.
2. Seal the tissue with tape and place it into a specimen bag and seal.
3. Samples should then be placed in a sample box or padded envelope along with a copy of the referral information and the package marked 'Pathological Specimen – Fragile With Care'.

### **Laboratory address:**

Department of Molecular Genetics  
RILD level 3  
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust  
Barrack Road  
Exeter, EX2 5DW

**High Risk samples:**

It should be noted that blood samples from patients who are likely to be Hepatitis B antigen or HIV positive, who have infectious hepatitis or who are jaundiced without obvious cause are potentially dangerous to all who handle them. Blood from febrile, undiagnosed patients, especially from abroad, may also be dangerous. Great care should be observed when submitting these samples for laboratory investigations, with strict adherence to the recognised methods of handling, particularly:

1. Forms and sample bottles must be clearly marked with a warning sticker
2. The samples must be sealed within two plastic bags.
3. The accompanying form must not come into contact with the sample.