

## **GUIDELINES ON BLOOD COLLECTION, STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION**

QuantiFERON®-TB Gold IT uses the following collection tubes:

1. Nil Control (Grey cap).
2. TB Antigen (Red cap).
3. Mitogen Control (Purple cap).

Blood collection tubes should be kept at room temperature (DO NOT REFRIGERATE). Never use blood collection tubes after the expiry date (printed on the tube label).

Antigens have been dried onto the inner wall of the blood collection tubes so it is essential that the contents of the tubes be thoroughly mixed with the blood. The tubes must be transferred to a 37°C incubator as soon as possible and within 16 hours of collection. **TUBES WITH BLOOD SPECIMENS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE NMRL ON THE DAY OF BLOOD COLLECTION EITHER WITH COURIER OR DX MAIL.** Please make sure that tubes are delivered before 5 pm on the day of the blood collection.

### **The following procedures should be followed for optimal results:**

1. For each subject collect 1mL of blood by venepuncture directly into each of the QuantiFERON®-TB Gold IT blood collection tubes.
  - As 1mL tubes draw blood relatively slowly, keep the tube on the needle for 2-3 seconds once the tube appears to have completed filling, to ensure that the correct volume is drawn.
  - *The black mark on the side of the tubes indicates the 1mL fill volume.*
  - *QuantiFERON®-TB Gold blood collection tubes have been validated for volumes ranging from 0.8 to 1.2mL. If the level of blood in any tube is not close to the indicator line, it is recommended to obtain another blood sample.*
  - If a “butterfly needle” is being used to collect blood, a “purge” tube should be used to ensure that the tubing is filled with blood prior to the QuantiFERON®- TB Gold tubes being used.

2. Mix the tubes by turning the tube end-over-end 8 to 10 times or shaking the tube for 5 seconds ensuring that **the entire inner surface of the tube** has been coated with the blood. Thorough mixing is required to ensure complete mixing of the blood with the tube's contents.
3. Label tubes appropriately (Patient;s name, surname, DoB, Hospital No)
4. After the blood collection and mixing, keep tubes in upright position in the rack at room temperature. **DO NOT REFRIGERATE OR FREEZE THE BLOOD SAMPLES.** Blood specimens should be delivered to the NMRL before 5 pm on the day of blood collection.