



#### **Issue: Delayed Transport of Sodium fluoride-Potassium oxalate tubes**

*Raised by:* Rina Glucina (HCM, Bonya)

*Background:* Page 303 of CRANA Clinical Procedures Manual (CPM) advises that where the transport of specimens in sodium fluoride – potassium oxalate pathology tubes (specifically with Glucose Tolerance testing) is delayed for more than 24 hours, the specimens should be spun to separate, and serum drawn off and frozen. This procedure was followed recently, but the receiving laboratory discarded the specimens and advised they shouldn't have been separated and frozen.

*Discussion:* Confirmation of the preferred process has been obtained from Westerns Pathology; confirming they would prefer specimens in sodium fluoride – potassium oxalate tubes are not separated / frozen.

While other pathology collection documentation indicates the correct management of these specimens, it is considered worthwhile to address this inaccuracy in the CPM. The information does not warrant an alternate protocol, but a sticker alerting to the correct process can be produced for inclusion on Page 303 of the CPM. A new edition of the CPM is being prepared; the editorial group should be advised of this issue.

*Consultation:* Lisa Thompson, Laboratory Manager, Westerns Pathology

*References:* CRANA Clinical Procedures Manual

*Outcome:* A sticker has been produced that can be placed in all departmental copies of the CRANA CPM. These will be distributed to all Remote health centres.

CRANA CPM editorial group have been notified of this information.