

Australian and New Zealand Paired Kidney Exchange Program

Protocol 7: Donor Nucleic Acid Testing

Donor Nucleic Acid Testing

Donor blood samples must be collected at (or as close to) day-9 from surgery date. The window period of 9 days prior to surgery serves a dual purpose:

- Narrows the potential window during which a viral infection might not be detected.
- Allows for clarification of any positive results that may be due to a technical, rather than a true positive result (i.e. a false positive result).

Results should be available at least 5 days prior to scheduled surgery. This allows sufficient time to repeat testing or inform centres of surgery cancellations if required. Please liaise with your local laboratory as necessary to ensure an adequate turn-around time, especially as false positive results are not uncommon.

Once received, the result is forwarded immediately to the ANZKX Program Coordinator for de-identification. A de-identified copy will be provided to the donor centre, as a hard copy of the NAT result will be sent with the donor kidney on the Day of Exchange.

Below is a generic protocol for the collection of NAT samples – please check specific local requirements with your accredited NAT laboratory provider.

Collection and transport of donor samples

1 Specimen collection

- Test requested must be specified as NAT for HIV, HCV and HBV.
- Donor blood will be collected in two EDTA tubes, according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Blood collected in EDTA may be stored at 2-30°C for up to 72 hours from time of collection and prior to centrifugation.

Whole blood should not be frozen.

2 Specimen transport

Specimen must be transported in a suitable container at a temperature between 2-30°C. Each specimen must be placed into a sealed biohazard bag, which contains two compartments - one for the specimen and the other for the request form. Specimens must be sent to an accredited NAT laboratory. A completed NAT Laboratory request form must accompany every specimen delivered to the NAT Laboratory.

3 Non-conforming specimens

All specimens must be collected, stored and transported as specified above. Specimens not complying with NAT Laboratory specifications, which is in accordance with the NAT test kit manufacturer's instructions, will not be processed.

VERSION CONTROL			
Version	Date	Author	Comments
V 1.0	Jul 2019	ANZKX Team	AKX transitioned to ANZKX
V 1.0	Feb 2021	ANZKX Team	Reviewed no changes
V 1.0	Nov 2021	ANZKX Team	Reviewed no changes

