

***TB INTERFERON ANTIGEN (QuantiFERON-TB Gold)  
NLL Test# 99434***

***New Specimen Collection Requirements***

Collect 1.0 mL of blood by venipuncture directly into each of the QuantiFERON-TB Gold IT blood collection tubes. Three tubes need to be collected for each patient: gray cap tube (Nil control), red cap tube (TB antigen), and purple cap tube (Mitogen Control). It is recommended to draw in the order of gray, red then purple. As 1.0 mL tubes draw blood relatively slowly, keep the tube on the needle for 2-3 seconds once the tube appears to have completed filling. 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 use of the QuantiFERON-TB Gold IT blood collection tubes. If one tube is a short draw tube, then the one tube can be redrawn immediately, not all three tubes need to be redrawn. The black indicator line on the side of the tube indicates the 1.0 mL fill volume. Mix the tubes by SHAKING VIGOROUSLY for 5 seconds (10 times) to ensure that the entire inner surface of the tubes have been coated with blood. The patient name, date of birth and the collection date and time are required on the specimen tubes. If adding a barcode label, please do not cover the top of the TB Gold IT color coded label which is necessary for the lab to identify tube type. Transport immediately and store at room (ambient) temperature. **DO NOT CENTRIFUGE, REFRIGERATE, PLACE ON ICE OR FREEZE THE BLOOD SAMPLES.**

***Specimens must be sent to the laboratory immediately so they can be processed within 16 hours of collection.***

The special collection tubes are available from Nebraska LabLinc.