

Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center

CLINICAL RESEARCH UNIT

Policy No.: 104
Previous Date: 10/5/97
Revised Date: 5/23/08

Centrifuge: Maintenance And Use

PURPOSE:

To provide a basic procedure for the maintenance and use of the centrifuge.

LOCATION:

CRU Specimen Processing Laboratory

EQUIPMENT:

Cleaning supplies:

10% bleach solution (10% solution corresponds to 1 and a half cups of household bleach per gallon of water, or 1 part bleach to nine parts water.

Paper towels

Gloves

Gowns

Masks for major clean-up of contaminated waste

Centrifuge tubes - conical or round bottom of high-quality plastic, 15.0 ml or 1.5 ml depending on the assay

Blank containers to be filled with distilled water for balancing the rotor

Centrifuge adapters with protective shields for holding tubes

STAFF RESPONSIBLE:

CRU Medical Assistant

CRU Nurses

Core Laboratory Technicians

POLICY:

1. Each centrifuged load will be checked for proper balance. This will include both even distribution and weight.
2. Speed calibration checks will be completed annually by the JHBMC Biomedical Staff.

PROCEDURE:

1. Check each load for proper balance, both for even distribution and weight. Place an aerosol containment shield on each tube holder, or on the entire rotor, depending on the centrifuge in use.
2. Clean up all spills immediately with 10% bleach solution. Rinse thoroughly. Bleach solution is made daily to assure potency.
3. On each day of usage, clean the inside of the centrifuge bowl and the rotors with 10% bleach solution. Rinse thoroughly.
4. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for operation:

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- a. Set the rotation speed and time.
- b. Close and lock the tops.
- c. Turn the centrifuge on.
- d. Observe for excessive vibrations. Turn off immediately and rebalance load if necessary.
- e. Allow the centrifuge to come to a complete stop before opening the lid.

MONITORING:

Annual speed calibration checks by JHMBC Biomedical Staff.

DOCUMENTATION:

Speed calibration checks by JHBMC Biomedical Staff.

REFERENCES:

Isenberg, Henry D. editor-in-chief. 1992. Clinical Microbiology Procedures Handbook, Vol I, II. American Society for Microbiology, Washington, D.C.

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