

Blood collection with EDTA or citrate (do not use heparin)

Blood should be kept at room temperature and plasma should be prepared within 1 h after blood draw to avoid cell lysis and release of contaminating gDNA.

Blood collection with Cell-Free DNA BCT (Streck)

Blood should be kept at room temperature and plasma should be prepared within 36 h.

In order to separate plasma from blood samples, Eurofins recommends the following protocol:

- Place primary blood collection tubes in a centrifuge with a swing-out rotor.
- Centrifuge the blood samples for 10 min at 1900 x g at +20 °C.
- Carefully aspirate the plasma supernatant without disturbing the buffy coat layer. About
 - 4–5 ml of plasma can be obtained from one 10 mL primary blood collection tube.
- Transfer the aspirated plasma into fresh 15 ml centrifuge tubes with conical bottoms.
- Centrifuge plasma samples for 10 min at 16,000 x g (in fixed-angle rotor) at +4 °C.
- Carefully transfer the supernatant (plasma) into a new tube with a pipette without
 - disturbing the pellet.
- Plasma can be kept frozen at –80 °C.