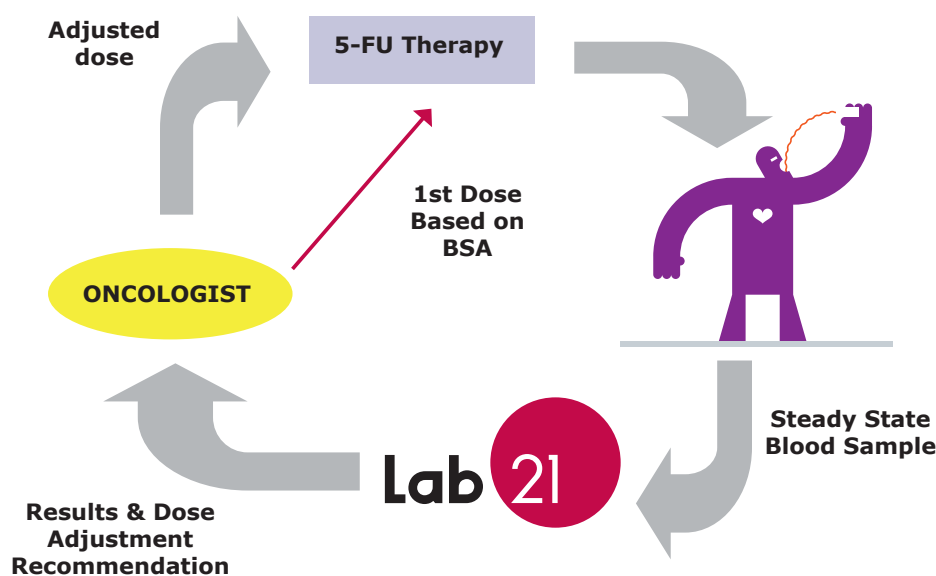


# DoseCheck™

## Sample Collection and Handling Guide

**DoseCheck™** is a blood testing service intended to aid optimisation of 5-FU treatment of cancer patients. DoseCheck™ is used when 5-FU is administered as continuous infusion on its own, or as part of regimens such as LV5FU2, 5-FU/Lv, FOLFOX 4-7, FOLFIRI and ECF. With DoseCheck™, the first 5-FU dose is calculated based on Body Surface Area (BSA), after which adjusted dosage based on DoseCheck™ results is used (see diagram below).



### HOW TO TAKE A STEADY STATE BLOOD SAMPLE

- Start continuous infusion of 5-FU.
- Take Steady State Sample **at least 2 hours into, but before the end** of the infusion.
- Steady State Sample must not be drawn from the drug infusion port, as the sample may be contaminated with 5-FU.
- If the sample is drawn close to the end of the infusion, it is **very important** to make sure that the pump is still running. 5-FU concentration in the blood declines very rapidly once the infusion pump has stopped.
- If the infusion pump has stopped before taking the sample and re-started, the sample must be taken at least 2 hours after the re-start.
- Correct handling of the blood sample (see overleaf) is crucial for correct result.

**Please note:** DoseCheck™ is not recommended for patients on theophylline, as theophylline can cause falsely elevated results.



## SAMPLE COLLECTION AND HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

DoseCheck™ Sample Collection Kit contains all sample tubes, labels, forms and packaging & posting accessories required.



1. WAIT AT LEAST 2 HOURS after the start of a continuous infusion. Collect the sample anytime thereafter, but before the pump runs out.  
DO NOT collect sample if pump is empty or non-operational.



2. COLLECT AT LEAST 2 ML OF BLOOD INTO THE EDTA TUBE PROVIDED.

DO NOT use gel tubes.  
DO NOT draw blood from the drug infusion port.



3. PUT THE SAMPLE ON ICE immediately after draw and centrifuge within 1 hour. If ice is not available, the sample must be centrifuged immediately after draw.

DO NOT let whole blood sample stand at room temperature.



4. LABEL THE PLASMA TUBE PROVIDED with 3 identifiers (patient's name, surname and date of birth). An empty label is provided in the kit.



5. CAREFULLY DRAW OFF PLASMA from the top of the EDTA tube, avoiding cell layer, and transfer to the separate tube provided.

DO NOT contaminate plasma with cells.  
DO NOT process hemolysed samples.



6. STORE THE SAMPLE AT -20 °C for at least 16 hours. This ensures that 5-FU is not degraded during shipment.



7. CAREFULLY FILL IN THE TEST REQUEST FORM. All information required is relevant for sample processing.



8. POST THE SAMPLE TO LAB21:

- Place the labelled plasma sample in the biohazard bag together with absorbent. The plasma sample does not need to be thawed.
- Close the biohazard bag as instructed on the bag.
- Place the bag and the Test Request Form in the kit box and close with the Security Seal.
- Post the freepost box to Lab21.

**In case of any inquiries, please contact the Lab21 Customer Services Team  
Tel: +44 (0)1223 395450, Email: [dosecheck@lab21.com](mailto:dosecheck@lab21.com)**