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Acknowledgements; Contents; Foreword to the First Edition; Dream and reality; An introductory case; The importance of the preanalytical phase; Biological Influences; Something unavoidable; Influences of age, gender, race and pregnancy; Changing habits; Influences that can vary (diet, starvation, exercise, altitude); May I take a coffee, smoke or drink before blood sampling; Stimulants and addictive drugs as biological

influence factors; Collection of Specimen

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considered; Take a lavender tube!

Additives and colour codesTransport and Storage; Fax me a sample; Effects of time and temperature during transport; Samples in transit; Legal standardization for mailing samples; How to keep a sample "fresh"; Storage of samples in the laboratory; Preparation of Samples for Analysis; What's has to be done on specimen arrival?; Specimen processing, centrifugation, distribution; Continuous or batchwise?; Preanalytical workflow and robotics; Safety aspects during the preanalytical phase; Disposal of specimens, needles, tubes and chemicals; Special Aspects with each Analyte

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Special aspects in therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM)Bacteria and viruses; Special aspects in microbiology; Endogenous and Exogenous Interferences; Can turbid samples be used?; Effects of lipemia; A difficult case; Pitfalls with endogenous antibodies; The serum sample looks reddish; Effects of haemolysis; Does the laboratory have to know all my drugs?; Mechanisms and treatment of drug interference; Everything under control?; Quality assurance in the preanalytical phase; References; Glossary; Index

## Sommario/riassunto

This forth updated edition contains the latest developments in analytical techniques. An international team of authors summarizes the information on biological influences, analytical interferences and on the variables affecting the collection, transport and storage as well as preparation of samples. They cover age, gender, race, pregnancy, diet, exercise and altitude, plus the effects of stimulants and drugs. National and international standards are described for sampling procedures, transport, sample identification and all safety aspects, while quality assurance procedures are shown for total