

## **How to send blood to IGeneX for testing for Lyme disease & associated co-infections**

1. In consultation with your Doctor, decide which blood tests are most appropriate. Included with the test kit from IGeneX is a full list of tests available with pricing.
2. Complete the IGeneX pathology request form (including getting the patient to include credit card details to pay for the test). Disregard the Medicare section of your form as this relates to Medicare USA (not Medicare Australia).
3. Contact the local pathology collection centre that will be doing the blood draw & ensure that they are able to do this (most are, but some have difficulty, so it is best to check ahead of time).
4. Contact the FEDEX office closest to your major airport (or the office you will be delivering the blood to). Check what time their cut off is for receiving a package to go to the US.
5. The blood draw needs to be done on a Monday or Tuesday only (if in Sydney). If in other capital cities the blood can only be drawn on a Monday.
6. Arrive at the blood collection centre early (many LDAA members have arrived up to 15+ mins before the collection centre opens, to ensure they are the first patient). Sometimes there will be a small collection fee for taking the blood sample (usually \$20 to \$30 – sometimes this will need to be paid in cash on the day, and sometimes this will be invoiced to the patient).
7. Collect the blood & place it into the tubes provided by IGeneX. Some of these will need to be spun & rested (the blood collection centre will know what to do with each tube, depending on the colour on the top of the tube).
8. Once the blood is spun & has rested for the required amount of time, place it in the foam box & place this inside the IGeneX box with the IGeneX pathology test request form, inside the FedEx container.
9. Take the blood to the FedEx office at Matraville in Sydney (or near your major capital city airport). Make sure it arrives by the time you were advised in step 4 (if you are late this will delay your blood by 24hours & may mean you have to go through this whole process again).



PO Box 137, Stockton NSW 2295  
[www.lymedisease.org.au](http://www.lymedisease.org.au)

10. Pay for your FedEx shipping, fill in the required paperwork. An important note is - do not say that the blood requires extra refrigeration, or it will slow your blood down by 24 hours & cost \$100-\$200 extra – normal shipping is around \$50-\$100). You need to select the box “non-hazardous Human Blood” (if applicable). Ensure you have ticked “FedEx Intl. Priority”.
11. After the blood has been tested, the results will be returned to the requesting Doctor – this may take up to 6 weeks.

IGeneX has recently set up seven “Australian Lyme Panel’s” for patients that may have been infected in Australia. You must state on the form which Australian Lyme Panel test that you are requesting.

These panels may be appropriate for some patients, however clinical judgement should be used to decide which tests should be ordered, depending on the patient’s medical history and symptoms, especially in regard to co-infections.

For more information on co- infections, please see

[www.lymedisease.org.au/about-lyme-disease/co-infections/](http://www.lymedisease.org.au/about-lyme-disease/co-infections/)

and

[www.lyme-symptoms.com/LymeCoinfectionChart.html](http://www.lyme-symptoms.com/LymeCoinfectionChart.html)

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