

Order of Draw for Multiple Specimens Collected with Evacuated Tubes during a Single Venipuncture ⁽¹⁾

**ALWAYS CHECK TUBE EXPIRATION DATES
MIX ALL TUBES 6-8 TIMES BY GENTLE INVERSION IMMEDIATELY AFTER FILLING**

Collect and fill blood culture bottle/evacuated tubes in the following order to minimize contamination from tube additives:

CAP/COLLAR COLOR	DRAW VOLUME	CONTENTS / PURPOSE
Blue blood culture bottle ⁽²⁾	8-10 mL	a. Adult blood culture bottle (aerobic)
Purple blood culture bottle	8-10 mL	b. Adult blood culture bottle (anaerobic)
Pink blood culture bottle	1-3 mL	c. Pediatric blood culture bottle (aerobic)
Yellow Isolator™ ⁽²⁾	7.0 mL	Blood culture for Fungus or AFB; draw one tube for each culture. See Note 2.
Clear ⁽³⁾	3.0 mL	NO additive. A discard tube drawn before light blue as indicated in Note 3.
Light Blue	2.7 mL	Citrate – for Coagulation studies; <i>fill to STOP line ON THE TUBE.</i>
Royal Blue (red stripe)	6.0 mL	Clot activator only - for certain trace metals/elements. <i>(Check label wording and color stripe carefully.)</i>
Red	5.0 mL	Clot activator only - for drug testing
Gold (or Marble)	5.0 mL	Serum separator gel (SST) <u>and</u> clot activator - for most Chemistry & Immunology
Green (green slash marks on label)	6.0 mL	Sodium Heparin - for HLA & chromosomes <i>(Check label wording carefully.)</i>
Green (no green slash marks on label)	4.0 mL	Lithium Heparin - for pre-op & hyponatremia panels; plasma hemoglobin <i>(Check label wording carefully.)</i>
Light Green	4.5 mL	Plasma separator gel (PST) and Lithium Heparin - for Troponin <i>(Check label wording carefully.)</i>
Royal Blue (blue Plus flag)	6.0 mL	EDTA – for certain trace metals/elements including lead. <i>(Check label wording and color stripe carefully.)</i>
Lavender	4.0 mL	EDTA – for Hematology & Molecular
Pink	6.0 mL	EDTA – preferred tube for Blood Bank
Grey	4.0 mL	Fluoride + Oxalate - for GTT
Yellow	8.5 mL	Glass, ACD - for cell cultures, B-27
Royal Blue (yellow label)	2.0 mL	Trypsin inhibitor/Bothrops Attox venom - for Fibrin Split Products (FSP)

If less than 3 mL, put all in pink bottle.

- (1) Order described above minimizes cross-contamination from tube additives. While collecting the blood, hold the tube horizontally or slightly downward to reduce carry-over effects.
- (2) Normally, routine and/or fungal/AFB blood cultures are drawn **first** to reduce bacterial / fungal contamination. **EXCEPTION: Venous pH and ionized calcium are to be drawn before any tubes, including routine or fungal/AFB blood cultures.**

Collect routine and fungal/AFB blood cultures via butterfly collection device connected to tube holder or syringe. (See [Blood For Bacterial Isolation](#) procedure for more details).
- (3) Draw a **clear top** discard tube **before** drawing any light blue citrate tube in the following situations:
 - (a) **Special coagulation tests** (e.g., platelet function studies, clotting factors, D-dimer) are ordered.
 - (b) When a butterfly collection set is used and a light blue coagulation tube is the **only** tube to be collected.
 - (c) When a **fungal culture, venous pH or ionized calcium** is ordered along with coagulation studies.

NOTE: For **routine** coagulation tests (PT, PTT, fibrinogen and thrombin time), a discard tube is **not** necessary, **if** the coagulation tube is the **first** tube drawn.

