









Specimen Collection & Handling

Follow Order of Draw and process all specimens within 2 hours of collection

Order of Draw	Type/Additive	Invert Immediately	Centrifuge	Refrigerate	Common Tests
	Bactec™ Culture Bottles Recommended volume for each bottle is 8-10 mL	✗	✗	✗	Blood Cultures, Fluid Cultures <i>DO NOT overfill</i> <i>DO NOT cover manufacturer's barcode</i>
	Royal Blue Trace Element K ₂ EDTA	✓ 8-10 times	✗	✓	Aluminum, Zinc
	Red/Black No additive	—	—	—	Discard tube for Light Blue tube* <i>DO NOT ship</i>
	Red/Grey Alternate				
	Light Blue Sodium Citrate	✓ 4 times	✗	✗	Prothrombin Time (PT)
	Red/Yellow Clot activator	✓ 5-10 times	✓ After clotting	✓	Carnitine
	Green Lithium Heparin	✓ 8-10 times	✓ Immediately	✓	Routine Chemistry, Hepatitis, PTH, Ferritin, HIV, Vitamin D, SARS-CoV-2 Ab
	Lavender K ₂ EDTA	✓ 8-10 times	✗	✓	Hematology, A1C, Fluid Cell Count, some Reflex testing

*Only use if Light Blue tube is first in order of draw

Post Order of Draw



Gold/White
Lithium Heparin
Green/Yellow Alternate

✓
8-10 times

✓
Immediately

✓

Post BUN

Other Testing



White
No additive

✗

✗

✓

KrU, CrCl, PDA, PET



Yellow/Red Stopper

✗

✗

✓

Urinalysis



Yellow/Black

✗

✗

✓

Urine Cultures



Collection Buffer

✗

✗

✓

Occult Blood IFT



Yellow Stopper
Yellow 6mL Alternate

✗

✗

✗

Fluid Gram Stain



Culture Swab

✗

✗

✗

Routine Cultures, Exit Site Cultures

Labeling & Handling

✓ Verify label information

✓ Patient name oriented towards top



DO NOT overfill
DO NOT cover manufacturer's barcode

