












### Collection and Processing of Blood Specimens:

- Check to be sure tube/container is within expiration date.
- Properly identify the patient.
- Collect blood specimens in the order indicated.
- After collection, invert tubes gently as instructed and properly label the tubes.

Refer to specific test information for exceptions to these general processing instructions.

Stopper Color	Container Type	Order of Draw	General Collection & Processing Instructions
	Blood Culture Bottles: Blue - aerobic (8-10 ml) Yellow - anaerobic (5-7 ml) Pink - pediatric (1-3 ml)	<b>First</b> ↓         <b>Last</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observe aseptic technique.</li> <li>• Do not overfill bottles.</li> </ul>
 Royal Blue	Trace Element Tubes: Clot Activator EDTA, K2		<p><b>If drawing other tubes, a clear red top discard tube must be drawn after this tube.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 tube inversions ensure mixing of clot activator or anticoagulant with blood.</li> </ul>
 Clear Red	Plain (No additive, Plastic)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discard Tube.</li> </ul>
 Light Blue*	Citrate, 3.2 %		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 - 4 tube inversions prevent clotting.</li> <li>• Centrifuge, aliquot and freeze if &gt; 10 hours delay in testing.</li> </ul>
 Red  Gold	Plain, (Clot Activator, plastic) SST (Clot Activator and Gel for serum separation)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 tube inversions ensure mixing of clot activator with blood.</li> <li>• Clot for 30 minutes.</li> <li>• Centrifuge w/in 2 hours of collection or as directed by test specific instructions.</li> </ul>
 Light Green  Green	PST (Lithium Heparin and Gel for plasma separation) Lithium Heparin Sodium Heparin		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 - 10 tube inversions prevent clotting.</li> <li>• Centrifuge &amp; aliquot w/in 2 hours if specimen requirement is for Plasma.</li> </ul>
 Yellow	ACD-B (Acid Citrate Dextrose)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 - 10 tube inversions prevent clotting.</li> <li>• Centrifuge &amp; aliquot if specimen requirement is for Plasma.</li> </ul>
 Lavender	EDTA, K2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 - 10 tube inversions prevent clotting.</li> <li>• Centrifuge &amp; aliquot if specimen requirement is for Plasma.</li> </ul>
 Gray	Oxalate/Fluoride		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 - 10 tube inversions ensure proper mixing of additive and blood.</li> </ul>

\* When using a winged collection device (“butterfly”) and the Lt Blue (Citrate) tube is the first tube to be drawn, a clear red top discard tube should be drawn first.