COLLECTION CONTAINER INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

For Blood:

i. Anticoagulants are different chemical solutions found within collection tubes that prevent blood from clotting. Their function is to maintain the specimen as whole blood or to allow centrifugation of the specimen to obtain plasma. A phlebotomist will perform a venipuncture using a collection tube that has both an anticoagulant and a vacuum inside the tube. After the blood is drawn, the anticoagulant and blood are mixed by gently turning the tube over and over.

ii. Various Blood Collection tubes contain no anticoagulant, a preservative or multiple different type of anticoagulants. For simplicity, the collection tubes have color-coded stoppers to designate the type of anticoagulant contained inside the tube. Below is a chart explaining the color-coded scheme:

Tube Top Color	Additive	
Light Blue	Sodium Citrate	Must be filled to minimum fill line
Lavender/Purple	EDTA	
Pink	EDTA	
Pearl (PPT)	EDTA	
Royal Blue with RED stripe	No additive	Blood WILL clot
Royal Blue with PURPLE stripe	EDTA	
Grey	Sodium Fluoride or Oxalate	
Green with gel (PST)	Lithium Heparin, plasma separator gel	
Dark green	Sodium Heparin OR Lithium Heparin	
Yellow (glass)	ACD	
Red	No additive	Blood WILL clot
Gold (SST)	No anticoagulant, serum separator gel	Blood WILL clot

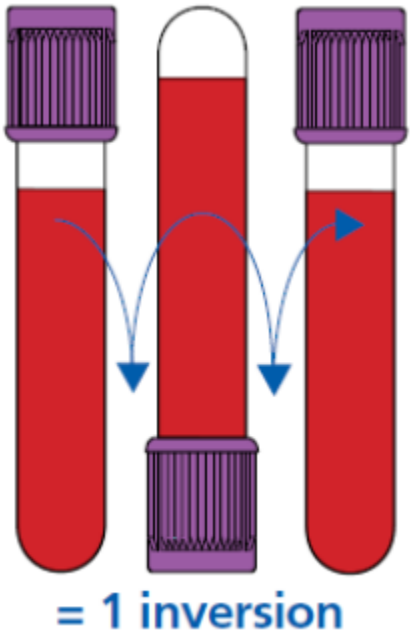
Correct Draw Order for both vacutainer tubes and syringe transfer of blood to tubes.

BD Vacutainer® Order of Draw for Multiple Tube Collections

Designed for Your Safety

Reflects change in CLSI recommended Order of Draw (H3-A5, Vol 23, No 32, 8.10.2)

Closure Color	Collection Tube	Mix by Inverting
BD Vacutainer® Blood Collection Tubes *(glass or plastic)*		
	• Blood Cultures - SPS	8 to 10 times
	• Citrate Tube*	3 to 4 times
or	• BD Vacutainer® SST™ Gel Separator Tube	5 times
	• Serum Tube *(glass or plastic)*	5 times (plastic) none (glass)
	• BD Vacutainer® Rapid Serum Tube (RST)	5 to 6 times
or	• BD Vacutainer® PST™ Gel Separator Tube With Heparin	8 to 10 times
	• Heparin Tube	8 to 10 times
or	• EDTA Tube	8 to 10 times
	• BD Vacutainer® PPT™ Separator Tube K_2EDTA with Gel	8 to 10 times
	• Fluoride (glucose) Tube	8 to 10 times



Ensure tubes are mixed well by gentle inversion, 8 – 10 inversions.

NOTE: All additive tubes must have a complete draw.

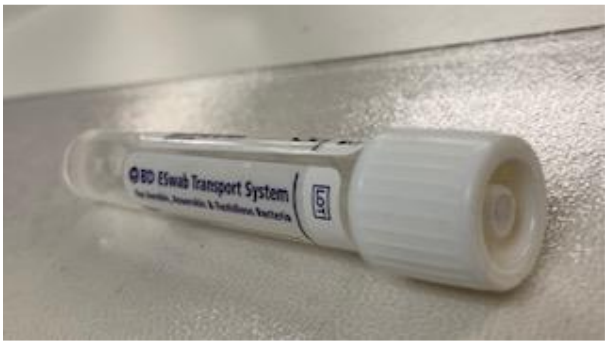
i. Na citrate (Light Blue)
ii. Lithium Heparin (Green)
iii. EDTA (Lavender)
iv. Fluoride/Oxalate (Gray)

Other Lab Specimen Containers
(various specimen types)

Aptima Urine Tube

Aptima Swab Tube
(endocervical, male urethral)

Bacterial - BD ESwab (white top)



VIRAL - Universal Transport Media
(red top with pink liquid)

Bacterial – BD ESwab Mini Tip (blue top)

Urine Culture Tube
(gray rubber stopper) 3 mL minimum

Blood Culture Bottles

Fungal Isolator Tube

Sterile container

Urinalysis Tiger Top
7 mL minimum

Plain Urine Tube
(no additive, no minimum)

Stool Collection Systems

Clean empty vial

Cary- Blair transport for routine stool culture

SAF (sodium acetate formalin) for Parasitology (O&P)

Sample Collection Guidelines

E-Swab Collection Kit
(Regular and Minitip)

The E-Swab kit is the preferred container for collection of specimens for routine bacterial culture.
This collection device can be used for wounds, abscesses, nares, throat or other specimens collected by a swab. It is used for transport of aerobic and anaerobic cultures.

Collect specimen with swab according to protocol. Insert into e-swab tube, break off swab at scored mark and recap. Label with barcode running lengthwise and Send to Lab Central Receiving -Tube Station 99

Urine Collection for Culture

- The additive in the gray urine culture tube helps to preserve and protect the level of bacteria present at collection. **This tube is for urine culture only.**
- Collect specimen following nursing guidelines for either clean catch or catheterized specimen in sterile container (cup). Transfer urine from the cup to the grey top tube using the straw device included in the kit.
- **Fill to line on tube. Minimum fill 3.0 mL.**
- **For specimens <3.0 ml (Peds or Adult), hand deliver in a sterile container**
- **For specimens <3.0 ml, send in UA No Additive (plain yellow plastic) tube or Glass tube with red rubber stopper.**

send to Microbiology – Tube Station 88.
send to Lab Central Receiving -Tube Station 99

Universal Transport Media

- The Universal Viral Transport kit is used to collect and transport specimens for Viral, Chlamydia, Mycoplasma and Ureaplasma testing. It contains a regular size swab, a flexible minitip swab and viral media.
- Collect specimen, place swab in pink transport media, break the shaft at the score line and recap. Label tube with the barcode label running lengthwise down the tube.
- Send to the lab on ice or with cold packs.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Collection

for GC, Chlamydia and Trichomonas vaginalis
by Nucleic Acid Amplification testing

The Aptima Unisex swab kit (white label) is used for endocervical and male urethral samples. Collect specimen according to collection kit instructions. Place swab in transport media, break the shaft at the score line, recap and label tube with barcode running lengthwise down the tube.

The Aptima Urine kit (yellow label) is used for urine using a “dirty catch” specimen. Fill with urine to the indicated line, recap and label tube with barcode running lengthwise down the tube.

For endocervical and male urethral specimens →

← For Urine specimens