# LABORATORY TUBE COLLECTION QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BD VACUTAINER® TUBE</th>
<th>ADDITIVE/ TUBE INVERSIONS</th>
<th>CLOTTING TIME REQUIRED</th>
<th>TESTS COMMONLY ASSOCIATED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Marble or Gold (SST) | • Clot activator and gel for serum separation.  
• 5 tube inversions required to ensure mixing of clot activator with blood. | 30 MINUTES | CHEMISTRY PROFILES  
ELECTROLYTES  
THYROID STUDIES  
VITAMIN B12/FOLATE  
SALICYLATE  
TESTS COMMONLY ASSOCIATED | LIPID PANEL  
HEPATIC PANEL  
IRON STUDIES  
CANCER MARKERS  
VITAMIN D  
HORMONE STUDIES  
THERAPEUTIC DRUGS  
TRICYCLIC ANTIDEPRESSANTS | HEPATITIS PANEL  
LITHIUM  
ALCOHOL  
CARDIAC MARKERS  
HIV  
HOMOCYSTEINE (ON ICE) |
| Red | • Silicone coated (glass)  
• No tube inversions required. No additive. | 60 MINUTES | CHEMISTRY PROFILES  
RHEUMATOID FACTOR  
PREALBUMIN  
AMYLASE  
TESTS COMMONLY ASSOCIATED | IONIZED CALCIUM  
URIC ACID  
MAGNESIUM  
LIPASE  
PREFERRED FOR ALL STAT GENERAL CHEMISTRY REQUESTS!! | LIPID PANELS  
PTH  
BHCG  
CORTISOL  
CRP  
C-PEPTIDE |
| LIGHT GREEN | • Lithium heparin and gel for plasma separation  
• 8 tube inversions ensure mixing of anticoagulant with blood to prevent clotting. | NO CLOTTING TIME REQUIRED | CHEMISTRY PROFILES  
RHEUMATOID FACTOR  
TESTS COMMONLY ASSOCIATED | IONIZED CALCIUM  
AMMONIA (ON ICE)  
THERAPEUTIC DRUGS (Except for VANC) | LIPID PANELS  
PTH  
BHCG QUANT  
PREFERRED FOR ALL STAT GENERAL CHEMISTRY REQUESTS!! |
| GREEN | • Lithium heparin  
• 8 tube inversions ensure mixing of anticoagulant with blood to prevent clotting. | NO CLOTTING TIME REQUIRED | RHEUMATOID FACTOR  
TESTS COMMONLY ASSOCIATED | AMMONIA (ON ICE)  
THERAPEUTIC DRUGS (Except for VANC) | LIPID PANELS  
PTH  
BHCG QUANT  
PREFERRED FOR ALL STAT GENERAL CHEMISTRY REQUESTS!! |
| GRAY | • Sodium Fluoride/Potassium Oxalate  
• 8 tube inversions ensure proper mixing of additives with blood. | NO CLOTTING TIME REQUIRED | CBC/PLT COUNT  
CYCLOSPORIN  
VANCOMYCIN  
TESTS COMMONLY ASSOCIATED | H&H  
SICKLE CELL  
DIRECT COOMBS  
RETIC  
RBC FOLATE | SED RATE  
RETIC  
PATH REVIEW  
DIRECT COOMBS  
RBC FOLATE  
PROGRAF  
CD3/CD4 |
| PURPLE | • Spray-coated K2EDTA (plastic)  
• 8 tube inversions required to ensure mixing of anticoagulant with blood. | NO CLOTTING TIME REQUIRED | TESTS COMMONLY ASSOCIATED | HGBA1C |

- **Red** and **Light Green** tubes are preferred for all STAT general chemistry requests.
- **Purple** tube is preferred for all STAT general chemistry requests, except for **Lactic Acid – Whole Blood (not on ice)**.
- Lactic Acid can be used in the **Light Green** tube, but it requires proper mixing of additives with blood.
- **Marble or Gold (SST)** tubes are used for specific tests like Chemistry Profiles, Electrolytes, etc.

**Revision Date:** Revised 01/19/2018
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Anticoagulant &amp; Collection Method</th>
<th>No Clotting Time Required</th>
<th>Type &amp; RH</th>
<th>Type &amp; Screen</th>
<th>Antibody Screen</th>
<th>Crossmatch</th>
<th>Rhogam Workup</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PINK</strong></td>
<td>▪ Spray-coated K2EDTA (plastic)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ 8 tube inversions prevent clotting.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BLUE</strong></td>
<td>▪ Buffered sodium citrate 0.105 M (≈3.2%) glass 0.109 M (3.2%) plastic</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ 3-4 tube inversions ensure proper mixing of anticoagulant with blood.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CLEAR/BLUE</strong></td>
<td>▪ Buffered sodium citrate 0.105 M (≈3.2%) glass 0.109 M (3.2%) plastic</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ROYAL BLUE</strong></td>
<td>▪ K2EDTA (plastic)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ROYAL BLUE</strong></td>
<td>▪ Clot Activator (plastic serum)</td>
<td>30 MINUTES</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**RED BLOOD BANK ARMBAND MUST BE COMPLETED AND ATTACHED TO THE PINK TOP!!**
GLASS RED TOP IS ALSO REQUIRED WHEN A TYPE & SCREEN/CROSSMATCH IS REQUESTED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PT/INR</th>
<th>PTT</th>
<th>Fibrinogen</th>
<th>DDimer</th>
<th>Special Coag &amp; Factor Assays Call Lab Prior to Collection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PFA</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 GLASS 4.5ML TUBES DO NOT SEND VIA TUBE SYSTEM</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**THIS CHART DOES NOT ENCOMPASS ALL LABORATORY TESTS.**

**SPECIMEN LABELING REQUIREMENTS:**

PATIENT MUST BE IDENTIFIED UTILIZING TWO PATIENT IDENTIFIERS (I.E. FIRST AND LAST NAME & DATE OF BIRTH). ALL SPECIMENS MUST BE LABELED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PATIENT. THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS MUST BE COMPLETED, AS APPLICABLE:

- **NAME:** DOE, JANE
- **DATE OF BIRTH:** 01/21/1949
- **DATE OF COLLECTION:** 09/28/2012
- **TIME:** 14:52
- **COLLECTED BY:** PEGGY PHLEBOTOMIST
- **SOURCE (IF APPLICABLE):** BLOOD, URINE, CSF, Etc.

Please contact Laboratory Client Services at 212-4400 for any questions.

**ORDER OF DRAW:**

- 1: Sterile
- 2: Citrate
- 3: Serum
- 4: Heparin
- 5: EDTA
- 6: Oxalate

Y:\Forms\Tube Collection Guide.doc

Revised 01/19/2018