

## Oakland Campus

### Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

#### Specimen Collection and Submission Guidelines

Proper patient identification is essential

Label all specimens with at least two patient identifiers, the date and time of collection and the initials of the person collecting the specimen. Include the specimen source if applicable.

Collection containers come in a variety of sizes, contain different additives and can be identified by the color of the stopper.

BD Vacutainers are filled by negative pressure and will automatically fill to the correct volume of blood.

Use the correct container and allow the tubes to fill completely. Do not over or under fill.

Mix tubes adequately, according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Do not transfer the specimen from one type of container to another.

**NOTE:** For *BD Bactec Culture bottles* the desired fill level should be determined before beginning the blood draw; fill bottles to the desired level.

Questions about these instructions or instructions for send-out tests? Call the Laboratory's Customer Service Line, x7877