

Coagulation Draw Volume Guide

Take the Guesswork Out of It



Ensure that the correct blood-to-additive ratio is met by checking the draw volume against the nominal fill mark on the tube or by holding tube up to this guide.



Sample within the range of the arrow represents 9:1 blood-to-additive ratio.

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Draw volume in accordance with
CLSI and/or ISO Standards

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Collection Tips

for Coagulation Testing



- CLSI recommends 3.2% (0.109M) of buffered citrate for coagulation assays.
- If a **winged blood collection set** is used, the first tube drawn in the series will be under-filled. Therefore, if a coagulation specimen is drawn first, a discard tube (a no additive or coagulation tube) is recommended to be drawn prior to this tube to ensure the proper anticoagulant-to-blood ratio.
- The following order of draw is recommended when drawing several tubes during a single venipuncture, and is used to avoid possible test result errors due to cross contamination from tube additives: (1) Blood Culture (2) Coagulation (3) Serum with or without gel (4) Heparin with or without gel (5) EDTA with or without gel and (6) Glycolytic Inhibitor. Always follow your facility's protocol for order of draw.
- Application of the **tourniquet** for vein selection should not exceed one minute of time. Following vein access, the tourniquet should be released as soon as possible following appropriate blood flow into the tube. If additional time is needed to locate the venipuncture site, remove the tourniquet for two minutes and reapply.
- For **hematocrit values** greater than 55%, adjust the volume of sodium citrate in the tube. Use the following formula to calculate the correct volume of sodium citrate used in the tube: $C = (1.85 \times 10^{-3})(100 - \text{HCT})(V_{\text{Blood}})$; C = volume of sodium citrate required for that volume of blood; HCT = patient's hematocrit; V = volume of blood required in the blood collection tube and 1.85×10^{-3} is constant
- Invert** each tube four times to ensure that the blood and anticoagulant are thoroughly mixed.
- Maintain the **9:1 blood to anticoagulant ratio** by filling the tube to the proper level or nominal fill line as indicated on the **VACUETTE®** tube label. Inadequate filling of the tube will decrease this ratio and may cause inaccurate test results.

Reproduced with permission from CLSI. H21-A5, Collection, Transport and Processing of Blood Specimens for Testing Plasma-Based Coagulation Assays and Molecular Hemostasis Assays; Approved Guideline - Fifth Edition. GP41-A7, Collection of Diagnostic Venous Blood Specimens; Approved Standard - Seventh Edition. Copies of the current edition may be obtained from Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, 950 West Valley Road, Suite 2500, Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087-1898, USA. Internet: www.clsi.org.

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