

**ARNOT HEALTH
POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL**

POLICY #: LS.PAL.0016
(previously VII.iii.N.1075)
TITLE: ORDER OF DRAW

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Order of Draw

1. Venous Blood Collection

The order in which tubes are drawn can affect the outcome of the testing. The following order of draw is recommended to avoid possible test result error due to cross contamination from tube additives. This procedure should be followed for both glass and plastic venous blood collection tubes:

1. Blood Culture Tubes
2. Trace Elements
3. Blue tops
4. Red tops
5. Gold tops
6. Green tops
7. Purple tops
8. Pink tops
9. Gray tops

NOTE: The order of draw has been revised to reflect the increased use of plastic blood collection tubes. **Plastic** serum tubes (red tops or gold tops) containing a clot activator may cause interference in coagulation testing. **Glass non-additive serum tubes (red - glass) may be drawn before the coagulation tube (blue). There is nothing wrong with drawing a red top tube before a blue tube as long as the red top tube does not contain a clot activator.** With the prevalence of plastic serum tubes on the market, CLSI moved glass red tops behind the blue citrate tubes (where blood activator tubes were positioned) in 2003 because there is no evidence that sodium citrate carries over and affects results. Rather than establish two orders of draw (one for glass, and one for plastic), to keep it simple, the above order of draw works for both.

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NOTE: When using a winged blood collection set (butterfly) for venipuncture and a coagulation tube (blue) is the first tube to be drawn, **a discard tube should be drawn first**. The discard tube must be used to **fill the butterfly tubing dead space** and to assure maintenance of the proper anticoagulant/blood ratio and does not need to be full. **The discard tube should be blue or red (no additive/ no clot activator/ no gel, has to be glass, not plastic).**

The same should be adhered to when using a syringe or butterfly setup.

2. Microtainer Collection:

The order of collection for microcollection differs from that of venipuncture. If multiple specimens are to be collected, including EDTA specimens, the EDTA specimen is collected first to ensure adequate volume and accurate hematology test results. Other additive specimens are collected next; specimens requiring serum are collected last.

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Revised By: Noemi Bentley, MT CLA Supervisor	Date: 3/3/17
Revisions Made: 1. Added pink top tube for Blood Bank draws 2. Added Arnot Health to the heading	
Medical Director: Dr. Lenhardt, MD, PhD	Date: 3/3/17
Adm. Director: Judy Wolfe, MT(ASCP)	Date: 3/3/17

References:

NCCLS, 5th Edition, Procedures for Collection of Capillary Blood Specimens 06/2004
College of American Pathologists, Revised guidelines 03/30/2005
FAQs, Center for Phlebotomy Education, Inc. 2008

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