









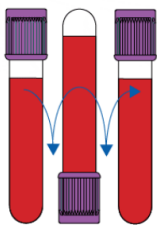
# VENOUS BLOOD SAMPLING

## Order of Draw and Specimen Handling

Order of draw	Color Coding	Tube Type	Synonyms	Recommended Inversions	Minimum clotting time	Centrifuge
Blood culture		Anaerobic blood culture bottle	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Aerobic blood culture bottle	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Citrate		Sodium Citrate	Blue Top	3-4	N/A	N/A
Serum		BD SST (Serum with gel)	Red Top	5-6	30 min	10 min
		Serum with clot activator (silica particles)	Gold Top	6	60 min	10 min
Heparin		BD PST (Plasma with gel)/Lithium Heparin	Mint Top	8-10	N/A	10 min
		Sodium Heparin	Green Top	8-10	N/A	Varies
Hematology		EDTA	Lavender Top	8-10	N/A	Varies
Trace Elements		Trace elements with K2 EDTA	Dark Blue Top	8-10	N/A	Varies

### LabNotes Tip

**How to perform a tube inversion correctly:**  
A correct inversion is one complete turn of the wrist, back and forth



**Note: Always follow your facility's protocol for order of draw**

**\*When using a winged blood collection set for venipuncture and a coagulation (citrate) tube is the first specimen tube to be drawn, a discard tube should be drawn first. The discard tube must be used to fill the blood collection set tubing's "dead space" with blood but the discard tube does not need to be completely filled. This important step will ensure maintenance of the proper blood-to-additive ratio of the blood specimen. The discard tube should be a nonadditive or coagulation tube.**

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