<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Tube Type</th>
<th>Inversions</th>
<th>Tests</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1     | Blue/Violet    | Blood Culture (plastic bottle) | 8-10       | Blood Pathogens           | ➢ Blue/violet sterile blood culture bottles (in that order) should be drawn first  
  o To prevent contamination from non-sterile tubes  
  o Blue aerobic bottles before violet anaerobic bottles – oxygen contamination occurs in the first collection |
| 2*    | Light Blue     | Citrate                    | 3-4        | Coagulation               | ➢ Light blue citrate tubes before tubes with clot activator or stronger anticoagulants  
  o To prevent adverse effects on coagulation studies (falsely reduced or prolonged PT and PTT)  
  o Must be filled to the specified level to maintain the proper ratio of blood to anticoagulant to prevent falsely prolonged PT and PTT. |
| 3     | Red            | Silica or glass particles  | 5          | Blood Bank; Serology      | ➢ Red tubes must be drawn after the blue top to avoid falsely decreased PT and PTT.  
  ➢ Can be filled before green, lavender, and gray tubes because carry-over of clot activator will be overridden by strong anticoagulants (heparin, EDTA, oxalate) |
| 4**   | Yellow         | SST w/ silica or glass particles | 5-8       | Routine and Special Chemistry | ➢ Yellow serum separator tubes with clot activator must be drawn before green, lavender, and gray top tubes  
  o Carry-over of clot activator will be overridden by strong anticoagulants (heparin, EDTA, oxalate) |
| 5     | Green          | Li Heparin (PST) Na Heparin | 8-10       | Routine and STAT Chemistry | ➢ Li Heparin (Light green) tube must be drawn before the Na Heparin Green tubes.  
  ➢ Must be drawn before Lavender to prevent contamination from EDTA. |
| 6     | Lavender       | EDTA                       | 8-10       | Hematology; Chemistry     | ➢ Lavender EDTA tubes are responsible for more carry over problems than any other additive.  
  o False elevation of Na and K levels if drawn before green, red or yellow top.  
  o Reduction in Ca and Fe levels if drawn before green, red or yellow top  
  o Prolonged PT and PTT if drawn before blue top |
| 7     | Gray           | Fluoride and Oxalate       | 8-10       | Glucose, Lactic Acid      | ➢ Gray sodium fluoride/potassium oxalate tubes last  
  o After green tubes for electrolyte measurement – elevation of Na and K levels  
  o After lavender tubes for hematology - oxalate damages cell membranes and causes abnormal RBC morphology |

*An additional blue tube must be drawn and discarded if this is the first specimen drawn.

**Yellow SST tubes should be allowed to sit 15 min. before centrifuging.