

Order of Draw



Blood cultures

First in the order of draw to prevent needle contamination when contact is made with stoppers from other tubes, which are not sterile. A second set of blood cultures requires a separate collection.



Citrate

Second in the order of draw to prevent carryover of anticoagulant from other tubes that could alter the results of coagulation studies.



Serum

Third in the order of draw to prevent anticoagulants known to affect potassium and other chemistry results from carrying over into this tube.



Heparin

Fourth in the order of draw to prevent anticoagulants known to affect potassium and other chemistry results from carrying over into this tube.



EDTA

Fifth in the order of draw so that this potassium-rich anticoagulant doesn't carry over into other tubes that are tested for analytes adversely affected by this additive (e.g., potassium, calcium).



Glycolytic inhibitor

(e.g., Oxalate, sodium fluoride, etc.)

Last in the order of draw to prevent the impact this anticoagulant has on RBC morphology, potassium levels, coagulation studies and other analytes.