**Order of Draw for Evacuated Tube Blood Collection**

* Verify that you are using a tube with the correct additive. Tube top colors may vary between manufacturers.
* Do not use expired tubes or tubes that have dropped on the floor.
* GENTLY invert all tubes immediately after collection. DO NOT shake tubes.

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| **CONTAINER**  | **ADDITIVE**  | **Inversion**  | **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**  |
|  Blood Culture  Vials  | Culture Medium  | 8-10 times | * Collect specimen in both vials (aerobic and anaerobic). Adult minimum volume is 10 mL for each bottle.
* Must be drawn with winged collection device (using a discard tube) or a syringe (using a syringe transfer device).
 |
|   2.7 mL  (Light Blue) 1.8 ml  (Light Blue) | Sodium Citrate 3.2%  | 3-4 times | * Draw 1-2 mL of blood in a light-blue-top discard tube before filling sample tube.
* Sample tube MUST be filled to indicator line for valid test results.
* Do NOT remove clots or send clotted specimens.
* Do NOT add two partially filled tubes together.
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|  Red (Serum)  | Clot Activator (no gel)  | 5 times | * Use for serum collections when Gel Barrier tubes should NOT be used
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| Gold with Gel Barrier (serum)  | Clot Activator Gel Serum Separator  | 5 times | * SST for serum determinations in Chemistry
* Invert tubes to ensure proper mixing of clot activator. Clotting time 30 min.
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| Green (Plasma)Green w/Gel (Plasma)  | Lithium Heparin Lithium Heparin Sep (Gel) Sodium Heparin | 8-10 times | * These tubes are NOT interchangeable.
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| Lavender(Plasma/ whole blood) | EDTA K2  | 8-10 times | * Do NOT remove clots or send clotted specimens.
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| Pink (Plasma/ whole blood) | EDTA K2  | 8-10 times | * Do **NOT** draw for CBC
* Do **NOT** remove clots or send clotted specimens
 |
|   Gray  (Plasma)  | Sodium Fluoride/ Potassium Oxalate  | 8-10 times | * Routinely used for glucose testing
* Do **NOT** remove clots or send clotted specimens
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| Yellow (Whole blood)  | ACD Solution  | 8-10 times | * Solution A and Solution B tubes are interchangeable.
* Do **NOT** remove clots or send clotted Specimens
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Note: These are some common tubes used in Medstar laboratories to perform testing. For special tubes not included in this list, please call lab.