

VACUTAINER® BLOOD COLLECTION

Following is a listing of Vacutainer® tubes available from PCL Alverno and the proper use of each.

Gold Top SST™ Gel Barrier Tubes - This tube is used for serum collection only. After this tube has been filled, the tube must be gently inverted 6-10 times to allow for contact with tube coating. Allow the blood to clot for 30 minutes. Gold top tubes must have the serum separated from the cellular elements within 45-60 minutes after collection. Do not remove the stopper. Centrifuge tube for 10 minutes at 3000 rpm (high speed).

Red Top Plain Tubes - This tube is used when both serum and clotted red cells are necessary and contains no SST™ gel (but may contain clot activator.) . This is the only non-anticoagulated tube that is acceptable for Blood Bank crossmatch procedures and therapeutic drug collections.

Purple Top Tubes - This tube contains EDTA anticoagulant. After this tube has been completely filled with blood, it must be gently inverted 6 - 10 times for adequate mixing of the blood and anticoagulant to avoid the formation of clots. Used for CBC, Sedimentation Rates, and Blood Bank procedures.

Gray Top Tubes - This tube contains oxalate as an anticoagulant and fluoride as a preservative. After the tube has been filled with blood, it must be gently inverted 6-10 times for adequate mixing of the blood and anticoagulant to avoid the formation of clots. Used for Glucose testing that cannot be centrifuged in a timely manner.

Light Blue Top Tubes - This tube contains a citrate solution, which is specific for anticoagulant testing. It is imperative that this tube is filled to within 10% of stated vacuum draw. The ratio of the blood to the anticoagulant is critical for valid results. This tube should be gently inverted 6 - 10 times for adequate mixing of the blood and anticoagulant to avoid the formation of clots. It is also critical that this tube not be contaminated by clot activators OR anticoagulant, therefore draw FIRST (except for blood cultures) if multiple tubes are collected. Used for Prothrombin Time (PT) and/or Partial Thromboplastin Time (PTT).

Green Top Tubes - This tube contains a heparin anticoagulant. Certain hematological and blood chemistries use this anticoagulant. After the tube has been filled with blood, it must be gently inverted 6 - 10 times for adequate mixing of blood and anticoagulant to avoid the formation of clots.

Navy Blue Tubes with no Anticoagulant - This tube is used for analysis of serum samples for trace metal elements. Allow clotting for 30 minutes. Centrifuge the tube for 10 minutes at 3000 rpm.

Yellow ACD Solution B Tubes - This tube is used for test performance on viable lymphocytes, primarily HLA typings and HLA B-27 testing.