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Blood Collection Tubes

Light Blue Top: Blue rubber stopper. Sodium citrate as anticoagulant. Available in 2.7 mL and 4.5 mL sizes. This is a siliconized tube containing a citrate solution which is specific for Prothrombin Time and other coagulation tests. The tube should be completely filled, (the ratio of blood to anticoagulant is critical for valid Prothrombin Time results). This tube should be inverted at least six times in order to facilitate mixing and prevent coagulation.

Green Top: Green rubber stopper Sodium or Ammonium Heparin as anticoagulant. Available in 3 mL and 10 mL sizes. After the tube has been filled with blood, it should be inverted at least six times in order to facilitate mixing and prevent coagulation.

Grey Top: Grey rubber stopper. Potassium Oxalate as an anticoagulant. Sodium Fluoride as preservative. Available in various sizes. After the tube has been filled with blood, it should be inverted at least six times in order to facilitate mixing and prevent Coagulation. Used mainly for glucose testing to prevent glycolysis.

Lavender Top: Lavender rubber stopper. EDTA as anticoagulant. Avoid exposure to extreme hot or cold temperatures. Available in 2.5 mL and 4.5 mL. Also available in microtainer sizes for capillary collections. This tube is designed for most hematological procedures. After the tube has been filled with blood, it should be inverted at least six times in order to facilitate mixing and prevent coagulation. Note the 2.5 mL vial is for pediatric specimens and has a transparent lavender top.

Pink Top: The new tube has a PINK top and contains a slightly different formula of EDTA than does the traditional Lavender top tube. This new tube should be used for submitting specimens to the Blood Bank. Only the 7 mL pink top tube is appropriate for Blood Bank orders, as this much whole blood is typically required to complete the requested testing. The introduction of these new pink top tubes does not change the current blood bank labeling requirements.

Red Speckled Top (SST With Clot Activator): This tube is the normal Serum Separator Tube.

Please follow these instructions when using the Barrier Tube or the SST tube with Clot Activator in order to obtain the most accurate test results:

1. Collect blood specimen using the usual venipuncture technique. Fill tube completely.
2. Gently invert barrier tube five times to mix clot activator with blood.
3. Allow blood to clot for 30 minutes.
4. Centrifuge at High Speed for 15 minutes.
5. Remove from centrifuge. Barrier will have formed, separating cells from serum. All of the separation gel should have moved from the bottom of the tube to form a barrier layer.
6. The sample is now ready to be transported to the laboratory. Do not remove stopper.