Collection and Processing of Blood Specimens:
- Check to be sure tube/container is within expiration date.
- Properly identify the patient.
- Collect blood specimens in the order indicated.
- After collection, invert tubes gently as instructed and properly label the tubes.

Refer to specific test information for exceptions to these general processing instructions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stopper Color</th>
<th>Container Type</th>
<th>Order of Draw</th>
<th>General Collection &amp; Processing Instructions</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Royal Blue    | Blood Culture Bottles: Blue - aerobic (8-10 ml) Yellow - anaerobic (5-7 ml) Pink - pediatric (1-3 ml) | First | • Observe aseptic technique.  
• Do not overfill bottles. |
| Red           | Trace Element Tubes: Clot Activator EDTA, K2 | | If drawing other tubes, a red top discard tube must be drawn after this tube.  
• 8 tube inversions ensure mixing of clot activator or anticoagulant with blood. |
| Light Blue*   | Citrate, 3.2 % | | • 3 - 4 tube inversions prevent clotting.  
• Centrifuge, aliquot and freeze if > 10 hours delay in testing. |
| Gold          | SST (Clot Activator and Gel for serum separation) | | • 5 tube inversions ensure mixing of clot activator with blood.  
• Clot for 30 minutes.  
• Centrifuge w/in 2 hours of collection or as directed by test specific instructions. |
| Green         | Lithium Heparin Sodium Heparin | | • 8 - 10 tube inversions prevent clotting.  
• Centrifuge & aliquot w/in 2 hours if specimen requirement is for Plasma. |
| Yellow        | ACD-B (Acid Citrate Dextrose) | | • 8 - 10 tube inversions prevent clotting.  
• Centrifuge & aliquot if specimen requirement is for Plasma. |
| Lavender      | EDTA, K2 | | • 8 - 10 tube inversions prevent clotting.  
• Centrifuge & aliquot if specimen requirement is for Plasma. |
| Gray          | Oxalate/Fluoride | | • 8 - 10 tube inversions ensure proper mixing of additive and blood. |

* When using a winged collection device (“butterfly”) and the Lt Blue (Citrate) tube is the first tube to be drawn, a red top discard tube should be drawn first.