Specimen Collection Tubes

BLOOD SPECIMENS

Always refer to tube label to confirm tube type – never rely on the stopper color alone.

Stopper/Label Color				Laboratory Use		Additives/Inversions at Collection	
1		Culture Bottles		For detection of microbial growth from blood specimens.	•	Soybean-casein digest broth 8-10 gentle inversions unless otherwise noted	
2	Light	t Blue		For coagulation determinations. Note: Certain tests may require chilled/refrigerated specimens. Follow recommended procedures for collection and transport. Inversions prevent clotting.	•	0.105 M sodium citrate (3.2%) 3-4 inversions	
3	Gold			Serum Separator Tube (SST®) for serum determinations in chemistry and serology. Contains separator gel and should not be used for toxicology or drug testing. Inversions ensure mixing of clot activator with blood. Blood clotting time 30 minutes.	•	Clot activator and gel for serum separation 5 inversions	
4	Red		i	For serum determinations in chemistry and serology, and for toxicology and drug testing. Glass serum tubes are recommended for blood banking. Plastic tubes contain clot activator and are not recommended for blood banking. Inversions ensure mixing of clot activator with blood and clotting within 30-60 minutes.	•	Clot activator 5 inversions (plastic) None (glass)	
5/6	Gree	n		For plasma determinations in chemistry. Inversions prevent clotting. Use only sodium heparin green-top tubes for all cytogenetic testing.	•	Sodium heparin Lithium heparin 8-10 gentle inversions	
5/6	Tan			For lead determinations. This tube is certified to contain less than 0.01 μ g/mL (ppm) lead. Inversions prevent clotting.	•	K ₂ EDTA (plastic) 8-10 gentle inversions	
5/6	Lave	nder		K ₂ EDTA for whole-blood hematology determinations and immunohematology testing (ABO grouping, Rh typing, antibody screening). Inversions prevent clotting.	•	Spray-dried K ₂ EDTA 8 – 10 gentle inversions	
7	Roya	ıl Blue		K2 EDTA for whole-blood hematology determinations and immunohematology testing (ABO grouping, Rh typing, antibody screening). Inversions prevent clotting.	•	Spray-dried K ₂ EDTA 8-10 gentle inversions	
8	Gray			For glucose determinations. Oxalate and EDTA anticoagulants will give plasma samples. Sodium fluoride is the antiglycolytic agent. Inversions ensure proper mixing of additive and blood.	•	Potassium oxalate/sodium fluoride Sodium fluoride/Na ₂ EDTA 8-10 gentle inversions	
9		ow and e label		Glass tube with liquid ACD for use in blood bank studies, HLA phenotyping, DNA, paternity testing, etc.	•	Acid Citrate Dextrose (ACD) solutions A/B additives –Trisodium citrate 22.0/13.2, citric acid 8.0/4.8 and dextrose 24.5/14.7 (in g/L) 8-10 gentle inversions	

Note: The Quantiferon-TB Gold collection tube set includes lavender, gray and purple capped tubes that are not listed or indicated on this chart

URINE SPECIMENS

Stopper/Label Color			Laboratory Use		Additives/Inversions at Collection		
	Gray and yellow label	:	For culture and sensitivity (C&S) urine testing. Minimum urine volume is 4 mL. For lower volumes, submit refrigerated urine in a sterile container without preservatives.		Boric acid, sodium formate Shake vigorously		
	Yellow plastic and yellow label	:	For urinalysis testing. Inversions ensure preservative is properly mixed. Note the fill lines. Do not under fill (<2 mL) or over fill (>10 mL).	:	Preservative 8-10 gentle inversions		