### Best Practices

#### Vacutette® Blood Collection Tubes

**Order of Draw and Inversions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Tube Type</th>
<th>Cap Color</th>
<th>Inversions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Blood Culture</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Coagulation</td>
<td>Red/Gold</td>
<td>5 - 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Serum Clot Activator</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>5 - 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Heparin</td>
<td>Pink/Lavender</td>
<td>8 - 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>EDTA</td>
<td>Grey</td>
<td>5 - 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Glycolytic Inhibitor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Other Additives</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Collect tubes according to the Order of Draw as established in CLSI GP4™ or according to facility policy.

Following proper order of draw when collecting multiple specimens in a single venipuncture helps to avoid possible test result error due to additive carryover.

Tube contents must be mixed thoroughly and slowly as it is removed from the holder, so the additive is incorporated into the sample.

Prevent Hemolysis

- Tourniquet application should not be overly constrictive, nor should it exceed one minute prior to venipuncture.
- Allow alcohol to dry for 15 - 20 seconds prior to proceeding with venipuncture.
- Choose appropriate equipment (i.e., needle gauge and tube draw volume) based on circumstance of the draw.

Fill Volumes

- On coagulation tubes, the black arrow indicates the +/-10% of blood volume needed for a properly filled sample with a 9:1 blood to additive ratio.
- On all other tube types, a black square is the fill mark to indicate proper blood to additive ratio.
- Always fill to completion to prevent quantity not sufficient, QNS.

Proper Tube Placement

- Maintain forward pressure by holding tube in place using thumb on bottom of tube to prevent pushback.
- Keep tube in place until the tube stopper is penetrated by the needle and blood ceases to flow, filling the tube to completion.
- Remove the last tube collected prior to terminating the venipuncture.

Syringe Transfer

- Avoid transferring blood from syringes into other containers unless using an appropriate transfer device.
- Allow the tube to fill without applying pressure to the plunger.

Label

- According to CLSI GP4™ all specimen tubes are to be labeled in front of the patient and must include:
  - Patient First and Last Name
  - Patient Specific Identifier (i.e., Date of Birth, Patient ID #)
  - Collection Date and Time
  - Identity of sample collector

Serum Tube Clotting

- Immediately following collection, gently invert the tube 5 - 10 times to allow the clot activator to mix with the sample.
- Allow specimen to clot for 30 minutes in an upright position. Observe for clot formation before centrifuging.
- Within 2 hours, centrifuge per blood collection tube instructions for use or your facility’s protocol. A gel barrier will form, separating serum from clot.

Tube Information

- All Vacutette® Blood Collection Tubes are sterile and latex free.
- Each tube has a color-coded safety cap corresponding to additive.
- Color-coded rings identify the draw volume, or indicate the presence of gel or sodium heparin or use for blood bank.
- Tiered rubber stopper on coagulation tube is designed to ensure seal on inner and outer tube for maximum shelf life.

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