








Tube Guide & Recommended Order of Draw*

*Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) Guidelines GP41-A6 (formerly H3-A6, 6th Edition)

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust - 05/16

Blood samples should be taken in the following order:

Cap Colour	Cat. No.	Tube Type	Determinations			Special instructions
	Cat. No. 363095 Draw Volume 2.7ml	Sodium Citrate	PT, INR, APTT, TT, D-Dimers, fibrinogen. Factor assays – please contact Haematology Laboratory.	Functional C1 esterase assays.		Tube must be filled to frosted fill line. Reach lab within 3 hours of sample collection. Mix 3-4 Times
	Cat. No. 367837 Draw Volume 6ml	Serum	Haptoglobins.	Steroid hormones, some tumour markers.		Mix 5-6 Times
	Cat. No. 368968 Draw Volume 5ml	Serum Gel (Rust Top)	Viral and Microbiology Serology	Immunology antibody tests, functional complement assays (CH50, AP50, antigenic C1 esterase, C3 nephritic factor), anticardiolipin antibodies, IgG subclasses.		Mix 6 Times
	Cat. No. 367954 Draw Volume 5ml	Serum Gel (Gold Top)	Core chemistry (renal, liver, bone, lipid, cardiac profiles), thyroid (TFT), drug levels (including lithium), B12, routine endocrine assays, trace metals (only copper, selenium), PSA.	Antibiotic assays.	Allergy tests, complement C3 and C4, rheumatoid factor and CCP antibodies.	Do not refrigerate. Mix 6 Times
	Cat. No. 367885 Draw Volume 6ml	Plasma	Renin and aldosterone (rush to lab).	Cytogenetics.	TB elisot, neutrophil function tests, lymphocyte function tests (both tests should be accompanied by blood from a healthy control).	Mix 8-10 Times
	Cat. No. 367839 Draw Volume 4ml	EDTA	FBC, reticulocytes, sickle screen, haemoglobin electrophoresis including thalassemia, malaria, G6PD, ESR, IMST, Kleihauer. HbA1c, red cell folate, heavy metals assays (including mercury & lead), troponin - please send separate tube.	CD4 count, T, B and NK cells, HLA-B27, T cell activation markers, primary immunodeficiency panel, periodic fever, T cell gene rearrangement, HIV-1 genotypic resistance, integrase resistance, tropism (V3).	PTH, ACTH (rush to lab within 30 mins), gut hormone (rush to lab within 30 mins).	Molecular genetics. Mix 8-10 Times
	Cat. No. 367941 Draw Volume 6ml	Crossmatch	Group & antibody screen crossmatch, direct antiglobulin test. NB: Full labelling by hand essential.	Molecular virology (PCR), viral load test for HIV, HBV, HCV, CMV and EBV. NB: 10ml EDTA tubes also accepted.		Mix 8-10 Times
	Cat. No. 368380 Draw Volume 6ml	Trace Element	Trace Metals: Blue top with red or purple band - chromium, cobalt, mercury, manganese. Blue top with PURPLE band - arsenic, thallium, cadmium, lead. Blue top with RED band - aluminium, selenium, zinc, copper.			Contact lab to arrange. Mix 8-10 Times
	Cat. No. 368521 Draw Volume 4ml	Fluoride Oxalate	Alcohol, glucose, lactate.			Mix 8-10 Times

Determinations and Special Instructions contained within this guide have been provided by the above named institute and are not BD recommendations or instructions for the BD products described. Please consult your organisation's guidelines or contact BD should you have any questions.

IMPORTANT MIXING GUIDELINES

All BD Vacutainer® tubes require immediate mixing following collection. Insufficient mixing can result in inaccurate test results and the need to re-draw. Correct mixing technique is to gently invert each tube 180° and back by the recommended number of times shown on the right hand side of the table.

