



## Tube Guide & Recommended Order of Draw\*

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

### Directorate of Pathology, Derriford Hospital, Plymouth

Blood samples should be taken in the following order:

Cap Colour	Tube Type	Determinations	Special instructions	
	Blood Cultures	Aerobic followed by Anaerobic - if insufficient blood for both culture bottles, use Aerobic bottle only.		
	Sodium Citrate	INR, Clotting Screen, D-dimer, DIC Screen, Fibrinogen.		Mix 3-4 Times
	ESR	ESR Point of Care Testing only. Not used in Derriford Laboratories.		Mix 8-10 Times
	Serum Gel	All routine Biochemistry including CRP, Auto-antibodies, B12, Ferritin, Folate, Complement, Immunoglobulins, Allergies, Antibiotic Assays, Serology for Bacteria and Viruses.	Not to be used for Cryoglobulins. Refer to laboratory before taking.	Mix 6 Times
	Lithium Heparin	Cytogenetics (Chromosome Studies), Carboxyhaemoglobin, Methaemalbumin.		Mix 8-10 Times
	EDTA	FBC, PV, Retics, Film, IM Screen, Malarial Parasites, Haemoglobinopathies, HbA1c, Ammonia, Cyclosporin, Tacrolimus, Lead, Porphyrins, PCR testing for Bacteria and Viruses, Tissue Typing, PCR for Haematology.		Mix 8-10 Times
	Crossmatch	Group, Crossmatch, Direct Coombs Test, Antenatal Grouping, Foetal Leak.		Mix 8-10 Times
	Trace Elements	Copper, Zinc, Selenium, Cobalt, Chromium, Manganese, Aluminium.		Mix 8-10 Times
	Fluoride Oxalate	Glucose, Galactose, Xylose, Alcohol.		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.

For further copies of this guide and questions regarding specific tests, please contact the main Pathology Laboratory.

