










Tube Guide & Recommended Order of Draw*

* Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (Formerly NCCLS) Guidelines H3-A6, 6th Edition

North Bristol NHS Trust General Wards

Blood samples must be taken in the following order:

	Cap Colour	Additive	Tests	Special Instructions
1		Blood Culture	Aerobic followed by Anaerobic - if insufficient blood for both culture bottles, use Aerobic bottle only.	
2		Sodium Citrate	Clotting studies, INR, Heparin monitoring, Warfarin monitoring, D-Dimer.	Tube MUST be filled to the full draw volume. Mix 3-4 Times
3		SST™ II	U&Es, LFT, Calcium, Lipids, Thyroid function test, CRP, Amylase, Magnesium, Vitamin B12, Folate, Ferritin, Serum electrophoresis, Antibiotic assays, Immunology, Serology, Lithium, etc.	Mix 5-6 Times
4		EDTA	Full blood count, plasma viscosity, immunosuppressants, Haemoglobin A1c, Parathyroid hormone, Sickle cell & thalassaemia, Malaria screens, ammonia.	Mix 8-10 Times
5		EDTA	Transfusion samples (Group & save, cross match, antenatal).	Mix 8-10 Times
6		Fluoride Oxalate	Glucose, Lactate, Ethanol.	Mix 8-10 Times
7		Trace Element	Zinc, Selenium, Aluminium, Copper, etc.	Mix 8-10 Times

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

IMPORTANT MIXING GUIDELINES

Mix 8-10 Times

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 invert each tube by the recommended number of times shown on the right hand side of the table.

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