

ORDER OF DRAW

Phlebotomy Technique Recommended Order of Draw

1. Sterile samples (eg: Blood Cultures)

2. Citrate tubes* () and ACD ()

3. Clot activator tubes () and ()

4. Heparin tubes () and ()

5. EDTA tubes ()

6. Glucose tubes ()

7. ESR tubes*** ()

8. Other tubes

* This tube is acceptable for routine coagulation testing (eg PT/INR and APTT). For some special coagulation testing where low level activation of coagulation factors may be of particular concern**, the use of a second blue top as a 'discard' tube may be considered¹. Because of 'dead space' in the tubing of winged (butterfly) sets, a discard tube should also be used where 'small draw volume' (1.8 mL and 2.7 mL) citrate tubes are the first drawn and a winged collection set is used.

** Activation may be induced by tissue factor (tissue thromboplastin) introduced into the initial sample stream as the needle traverses the subcutaneous tissue

*** Note regarding ESR: in accordance with NCCLS¹ recommendations, ESR tube should be placed at position 2 above. Because their position in the order is not as critical as for citrate specimens for coagulation testing, it is common practice to place this tube at the end of the list to provide greater priority to tubes that will generally be required for more clinically important tests.

• INFORMATION BASED ON BD VACUTAINER[®] SYSTEMS (BD Diagnostics, Preanalytical Systems).

1. NCCLS document H3-A5 "Procedures for the Collection of Diagnostic Blood Specimens by Venipuncture". 5th Edition, Dec. 2003