Order of Draw of Blood Tubes

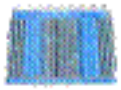
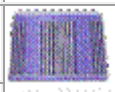
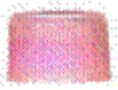
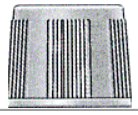
This is the order in which blood samples should be taken, as recommended by the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI).

Please note:

- Out-of-date sample bottles will be refused - please note expiry date of container before use.
- Additives (anti-coagulant etc) in tubes are for appropriate preservation of samples. If an error is made, **do not transfer the blood from one tube to another** as this may lead to erroneous results and may also affect laboratory equipment.
- Please check that correct anticoagulant is used.
- When blood is collected from a vein using a needle, please use adult bottles whenever possible.

Blood cultures must be taken first, if required.

- Using the following CLSI* recommended Order of Draw will reduce the possibility of effects due to the carryover of tube additives to a minimum
- Allow tubes to fill to the mark to ensure the correct ratio of blood to tube additives. All plastic tubes contain additives, even serum tubes contain a spray dried clot activator.
- Ensure that filled tubes are thoroughly mixed by complete inversion (not shaking) 6-8 times

Order of draw	Tube Lid Colour	Tube	Description	Notes
1		Citrate (blue)	3.5ml coagulation Sodium Citrate	
2		Plain clot (red)	Biochemistry: 4 ml Serum Clot Activator without gel. Microbiology: 9ml Serum Clot Activator without gel	Note: where plain clot is specified, Gel Clots are not suitable.
3		Gel Clot (Gold)	4 ml Serum Sep. Clot Activator	If patients are difficult to bleed a PLAIN CLOT (red) may be used.
4		LITH HEP (Green)	4 ml Lithium Heparin	
5		EDTA (purple)	4 ml EDTA	
6		Xmatch EDTA (pink)	6 ml EDTA	
7		FLU OXA (grey)	4 ml Fluoride Oxalate	
8		TRACE (dark blue)	6 ml Sodium Heparin Trace Elements	
9		any other		

*CLSI: was NCCLS (National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards)