

Blood Collection Instructions

These instructions are intended as an overview: For more detailed instructions, see the Alphabetical Test Listing section of Samaritan Health Services Laboratories' Test Directory.

When serum or plasma is required, the volume of blood drawn should be approximately 2½ times the amount of serum or plasma that is needed (e.g., 7 mL blood will yield 2 ½-3 mL serum).

Serum: SST Tube (Serum Separator Tube)—Gel Barrier

- Label the specimen appropriately with patient name and date and time of collection.
- Do not remove stopper at any time
- Gently invert no more than 5 times
- Allow to clot 30 minutes
- Centrifuge at 2200—2500 RPM for 15 minutes
- Transport in original tube
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Red Cap (Clot) Tube—No Additive

- Label the specimen appropriately with patient name and date and time of collection.
- Allow to clot 30 minutes
- Centrifuge at 2200—2500 RPM for 15 minutes
- Transfer serum to clean vial

Anticoagulated Whole Blood: EDTA-Lavender Cap Tube (ethylene-diaminetetraacetic acid)

- Label the specimen appropriately with patient name and date and time of collection.
- Immediately, gently invert tube 8—10 times to thoroughly mix blood and additive

Sodium Citrate and Preservative—Blue Cap Tube

- Label the specimen appropriately with patient name and date and time of collection.
- Immediately, gently invert tube 8-10 times to thoroughly mix blood and additive.

Lithium Heparin—Green Cap Tube

- Label the specimen appropriately with patient name and date and time of collection.
- Immediately, gently invert tube 8-10 times to thoroughly mix blood and additive.

Lithium Heparin (Gel Barrier)—Light Green Cap Tube

- Label the specimen appropriately with patient name and date and time of collection.
- Immediately, gently invert tube 8-10 times to thoroughly mix blood and additive.