

Quick reference summary

6 point check for this winter when taking blood samples

STEP 1



Warm patient - ensure the patient's arm is warm and well-circulated.

STEP 2



Relaxed hand - avoid fist pumping; ask patient to keep their hand relaxed.

STEP 3



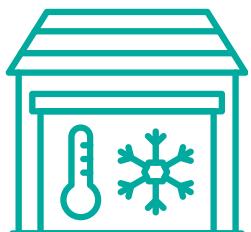
Efficient tourniquet use - minimise tourniquet-to-venepuncture time; if it's been difficult to locate a vein, take a short 'tourniquet break' before venepuncture.

STEP 4



Minimise delays - send the sample promptly, ensure handling is swift and appropriate packaging used.

STEP 5



Environmental awareness - consider the effect of ambient cold, particularly when sample collection is from cold surroundings or the samples are exposed to cold surfaces.

STEP 6



Correct order of draw - make sure you collect specimens in the correct order of draw.

BD tube guide and recommended order of draw¹

BD Vacutainer® BD Life Sciences -
Integrated Diagnostic Solutions



North West London Pathology – GP

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Post collection, please ensure details of request form match those of the blood tubes

Cap Colour	Cat. No./Draw Volume	Tube Type	Determinations	Centrifuge at Surgery	Clotting Time*	Mix by immersion
	Cat. No. 363095 Draw Volume 2.7ml	Sodium Citrate	PT, INR, APTT, TT, D-Dimers, fibrinogen Factor assays- please contact Haematology Laboratory Tube must be filled to frosted fill line and reach lab within 3h of sample collection	No		3-4
	Cat. No. 367837 Draw Volume 6ml	Serum	Haptoglobins Steroid hormones, some tumour markers Functional C1 esterase assays	No	60 minutes	5-6
	Cat. No. 368968 Draw Volume 5ml	SST™ II Advance (Rust)	Viral and microbiology serology Immunology antibody tests, functional complement assays (CH50, AP50, antigenic C1 esterase, C3 nephritic factor), antiphospholipid antibodies, IgG subclasses	Yes	30 minutes	6
	Cat. No. 367954 Draw Volume 5ml	SST™ II Advance (Gold)	Core chemistry (renal, liver, bone, lipid, cardiac profiles), thyroid (TFT), drug levels (including lithium), B12, routine endocrine assays, PSA, antibiotic assays, allergy tests, complement C3 and C4, rheumatoid factor, CCP antibodies, serum osmolality Do not refrigerate	Yes	30 minutes	6
	Cat. No. 367885 Draw Volume 6ml	Lithium Heparin	Cytogenetics TB elispot, neutrophil function tests, lymphocyte function tests (both tests should be accompanied by blood from a healthy control) Carbon monoxide (unless blood gas sample has been taken), ammonia	No		8-10
	Cat. No. 368860/367839 Draw Volume 4ml	EDTA	FBC, reticulocytes, sickle screen, haemoglobin electrophoresis including thalassaemia, malaria, G6PD, ESR, IMST, Kleihauer, HbA1c, red cell folate, heavy metal assays (including mercury & lead), troponin (separate tube), CD4 count, T, B and NK cells, HLA-B27, T cell activation markers, primary immunodeficiency panel, periodic fever, T cell gene rearrangement, HIV-1 genotypic resistance, integrase resistance, tropism (V3), PTH (separate sample), ACTH (rush to lab within 30min), molecular genetics, renin and aldosterone, BNP (separate sample)	No		8-10
	Cat. No. 367941 Draw Volume 6ml	EDTA Crossmatch	Group and antibody screen crossmatch, direct antiglobulin test (N.B. Full labelling by hand essential) Molecular virology (PCR), viral load test for HIV, HBV, HCV, CMV and EBV (N.B. 10ml tubes also accepted)	No		8-10
	Cat. No. 368920 Draw Volume 2ml	Fluoride Oxalate	Alcohol, glucose, lactate	No		8-10
	Cat. No. 368380/368381 Draw Volume 6ml	Trace Element	Trace metals: Blue top with PURPLE band – cobalt, chromium, manganese, arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury, thallium Blue top with RED band – aluminium, copper, selenium, zinc	No		8-10

* Minimum time required to allow blood clots to form. Centrifugation should not be performed until this time has elapsed after venepuncture.

Determinations and Special Instructions contained within this guide have been provided by the 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.

1. Clinical and Laboratory Standard Institute (CLSI) Guidelines GP14-E2 (formerly H5-A5, 6th Edition)

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 (180° and back) each tube the recommended number of times shown on the right hand side of the table.

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