

COLLECTION CONTAINERS

Vacutainer® Tube Use

The following table gives the most common types of collection tubes required for analysis. Additional collection tube types may be required for selected tests. Refer to test listings in this handbook for specific instructions. Invalid results may occur if improper collection techniques and collection tubes are used.

Color	Additive	Draw Volume	Minimum Volume
Blue	Sodium citrate - 3.2%	4.5 mL 2.7 mL 1.8 mL	4.5 mL 2.7 mL 1.8 mL
Gray	Potassium oxalate, sodium fluoride	5 mL 3 mL	3 mL 1.5 mL
Green	Sodium heparin	7 mL 3 mL	
Lavender	K ₂ EDTA	3 mL	2.3 mL
Pink	EDTA	6 mL (Blood Bank only)	
Red	None	4 mL 7 mL	
Red/gray (SST™)	Inert barrier material; fast-clot activator	8.5 mL 3.5 mL	
Capillary Blood Collection Tubes (Microtainers™)			
Lavender	K ₂ EDTA	500 µL	250 µL
Red	Serum Separator	500 µL	250 µL
Gold	SST Serum Separator (amber reservoir)	600 µL	600 µL
Lt. Green	Lithium Heparin and Plasma Separator (amber reservoir)	600 µL	600 µL

Urine or Fluid (other than CSF) Collection Containers

- Sterile red top blood collection tubes (chemistries)
- Sterile lavender top blood collection tubes (cell counts except CSF; see next section for CSF)
- Sterile urine collection tubes for urinalysis (UA) and urine cultures (UC). Two tubes are available from Central Supply:

1. Yellow capped conical bottom tube for UA, Workday #432834
2. Gray capped tube for UC, Workday #66793

Collection Instructions: *Both tubes are individually marked and packaged with a collection straw. Collect urine in a sterile cup. Place the straw in the urine and then gently press each tube into the top of the straw. The tubes will automatically draw the appropriate volume of urine into the tubes. The urine cup can then be discarded.*

- 3000 mL brown plastic container with lid (for timed collections); **preservatives may be added to this container for specific tests — contact lab**

Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) Collection Containers

Use the sterile tubes provided in the Spinal Tap kit, or alternatively use sterile plastic or glass tubes that do not contain preservatives or anticoagulants. Properly label each tube submitted with the patient's name, medical record number, date/time of collection, initials of collector, and sequence number of collection. Typically, tubes are labeled #1-4, with tubes #2 or #3 being used for culture and tubes #1 and #4 used for cell counts; any tube can be used for chemistry tests.

Microbiology Culture Containers

- Collection instruction guides are located under the [Specimen Collection](#) tab.