

# Collection Tube Requirements of Commonly Ordered Tests - *Inpatient*

**TABLE I: ORDER OF DRAW**

| ORDER TO DRAW | ABBREVIATION   | TUBE COLOR | MATRIX                                    | MIX WELL BY GENTLY INVERTING                            |
|---------------|--|------------|---|---|
| 1             | Blood culture specimens need to be drawn first. Then a discard tube is drawn between the blood culture and first tube drawn for other testing. |            |   |   |
| 2             | BLUE   | Light Blue | Sodium Citrate Plasma                     | Must be filled to minimum fill line. Invert 8-10 times. |
| 3             | RED  | Red        | Serum, no gel                             | Invert 8-10 times.                                      |
| 3             | SST  | Gold       | Serum, SST                                | Invert 8-10 times.                                      |
| 4             | GRN  | Mint Green | Lithium Heparin Plasma, PST               | Invert 8-10 times.                                      |
| 5             | LAV  | Lavender   | EDTA Plasma                               | Fill to at least half full. Invert 8-10 times.          |
| 6             | GREY   | Grey       | Sodium Fluoride/ Potassium Oxalate Plasma | Invert 8-10 times.                                      |

**TABLE II: SPECIMEN TYPES FOR COMMONLY ORDERED TESTS**

| ANALYTE                        | TEST MNEMONIC(S) | TUBE | NOTE   | ANALYTE                              | TEST MNEMONIC(S) | TUBE  | NOTE | ANALYTE   | TEST MNEMONIC(S)    | TUBE | NOTE           |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------|--------|--------------------------------------|------------------|-------|------|---|---------------------|------|----------------|
| <b>CHEMISTRY</b>               |                  |      |        | <b>CHEMISTRY (cont.)</b>             |                  |       |      | <b>TOXICOLOGY</b>   |                     |      |                |
| Albumin                        | ALB              | GRN  |        | LDH                                  | LDH              | GRN   |      | Alcohol (Ethanol)   | ETOH                | GRN  | No alc wipe    |
| ALP                            | ALP              | GRN  |        | Lipase                               | LIPASE           | GRN   |      | Digoxin   | DIG                 | GRN  | See Note 2     |
| ALT                            | SGPT             | GRN  |        | Lipid Profile                        | LIPR, LIPRFLX    | GRN   |      | Phenytoin, Total  | DIL                 | GRN  | See Note 2     |
| Ammonia                        | NH3              | LAV  | ON ICE | Magnesium                            | MG, OB MG        | GRN   |      | Theophylline  | THEO                | GRN  |                |
| Amylase                        | AMY              | GRN  |        | Myoglobin                            | MYOGLQ           | GRN   |      | Vancomycin  | VAN, VAN PK, VAN TR | GRN  |                |
| AST                            | SGOT             | GRN  |        | Phosphorus                           | PHOS             | GRN   |      | <b>HEMATOLOGY &amp; COAGULATION</b>   |                     |      |                |
| Basic Panel                    | BASIC, BASICGFR  | GRN  |        | Potassium                            | K                | GRN   |      | Activated PTT   | PTT                 | BLUE |                |
| BNP                            | BNP              | LAV  |        | Procalcitonin                        | Not Available    | GRN   |      | CBC with Auto-Diff  | CBCA                | LAV  |                |
| Calcium                        | CA               | GRN  |        | PSA, Total                           | PSA, PSA ANNUAL  | SST   |      | CBC withOUT Auto-Diff   | CBCN                | LAV  |                |
| Chloride                       | CL               | GRN  |        | Ren Func Panel                       | RENAL, RENALGFR  | GRN   |      | DIC Panel   | DIC                 | LAV  | Both specimens |
| Cholesterol                    | CHOL             | GRN  |        | Sodium                               | NA               | GRN   | BLUE |   |                     |      |                |
| CO <sub>2</sub> , Total        | CO2              | GRN  |        | T3, Total                            | T3T              | SST   |      | ESR   | ESR                 | LAV  |                |
| Comp Panel                     | COMP, COMPGFR    | GRN  |        | T4, Total                            | T4T              | SST   |      | Fibrinogen  | FIB                 | BLUE |                |
| CK-MB                          | CK/MB            | GRN  |        | T4, Free                             | T4F              | SST   |      | Hb & Hematocrit   | HH                  | LAV  |                |
| CK                             | CK               | GRN  |        | Triglyceride                         | TRIG             | GRN   |      | PT-INR  | PT-INR              | BLUE |                |
| Creatinine                     | CR               | GRN  |        | Troponin I                           | TROPONI          | GRN   |      | Reticulocyte Count  | RTC AUTO            | LAV  |                |
| Electrolytes                   | LYT, NEO LYT     | GRN  |        | TSH                                  | TSH, TSHR        | SST   |      | <b>TIPS FOR PREVENTING HEMOLYSIS</b>  |                     |      |                |
| Electrophoresis, Serum Protein | PELP, PELP R     | SST  |        | UIBC                                 | IRON IBC         | GRN   |      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not leave tourniquet on longer than 1 minute. This is one of the most common causes of hemolysis.</li> <li>Do not shake tubes vigorously.</li> <li>Tubes should be gently inverted 8-10 times.</li> <li>Do not pull on syringe too hard.</li> <li>Do not lay tubes on their sides. Store tubes upright after collection.</li> </ul> |                     |      |                |
| Ferritin                       | FTN              | SST  |        | Urea Nit, Blood                      | BUN              | GRN   |      |   |                     |      |                |
| Folate, Serum                  | FOL              | SST  |        | Vitamin B12                          | B12              | SST   |      |   |                     |      |                |
| GGT                            | GGT              | GRN  |        | <b>SEROLOGY – INFECTIOUS DISEASE</b> |                  |       |      |   |                     |      |                |
| Glucose                        | GLU LVL          | GRN  |        | Hep Acute Panel                      | HEP ACUTE        | SST   |      |   |                     |      |                |
| β-HCG, Total                   | HCGP, HCGQ       | GRN  |        | Hep Bs Ab                            | HEP B SAB        | SST   |      |   |                     |      |                |
| Hemoglobin A <sub>1c</sub>     | HGBA1C           | LAV  |        | Hep Bs Ag                            | HEP B SAG        | SST   |      |   |                     |      |                |
| Hep Func Panel                 | HEPFUNC          | GRN  |        | Hep Chron Panel                      | HEP CHRONIC      | 2 SST |      |   |                     |      |                |
| Iron                           | FE               | GRN  |        | Hepatitis C Ab                       | HEP C AB         | SST   |      |   |                     |      |                |
| Lactate                        | LACT             | GREY | ON ICE | HIV Ab & p24 Ag                      | HIV SCN DIFF     | SST   |      |   |                     |      |                |

**NOTES: 1.)** Mint green top tubes are listed where appropriate to minimize turn-around-time. **2.)** DIG and DIL must be removed from gel within 24 hours of collection.