

Microbiology Quick Guide

The following is a list of tubes referred to in the Test Menu section of the manual:

ACD (Yellow-Top Tube)*:

This tube contains acid citrate dextrose (ACD), which is used for special tests using whole blood. Do not substitute the yellow top (SPS) tube. SPS additive interferes with several assays that use ACD blood. *Note: After the tube has been filled with blood, immediately invert the tube gently several times to prevent coagulation.

EDTA (Lavender-Top Tube)*:

This tube contains EDTA as an anticoagulant and is used for most hematological procedures. Do not allow to freeze. *Note: After the tube has been filled with blood, immediately invert the tube gently several times to prevent coagulation.

Lithium Heparin (Green-Top Tube)*:

This tube is used for the collection of heparinized plasma or whole blood for special tests. *Note: After the tube has been filled with blood, immediately invert the tube gently several times to prevent coagulation.

Potassium Oxalate/Sodium Fluoride (Grey-Top Tube)*:

This tube contains Potassium Oxalate as an anticoagulant and Sodium Fluoride as a preservative, used to preserve glucose in whole blood and for some special chemistry tests. *Note: After the tube has been filled with blood, immediately invert the tube gently several times to prevent coagulation.

PST (Lime Green or Lavender Plasma Separator Tube)*:

This tube contains heparin and plasma gel separator and is used for many different tests. After drawing specimen, invert the tube to mix before centrifuging for 10 mins. If frozen plasma is required, pour off plasma into plastic vial and freeze. This is used for STAT orders. *Note: After the tube has been filled with blood, immediately invert the tube gently several times to prevent coagulation.

Serum (Red-Top Tube):

This tube contains no anticoagulant. The tube is used for the collection of serum for selected chemistry tests and special immunohematology tests. An SST tube should never be substituted as the gel barrier can interfere with analysis.

Sodium Citrate (Light Blue-Top Tube)*:

This tube contains sodium citrate as an anticoagulant, used for collection of blood for coagulation studies. This tube needs to be completely filled; the ratio of blood to anticoagulant is critical for valid coagulation results. After the tube has been filled with blood, immediately invert the tube gently several times to prevent coagulation. Reference ranges for coagulation studies are based on tube

containing 3.2% buffered sodium citrate. *Note: After the tube has been filled with blood, immediately invert the tube gently several times to prevent coagulation.

Sodium Heparin (Mint Green With Black Ring)*:

This tube is for lithium ratios only. *Note: After the tube has been filled with blood, immediately invert the tube gently several times to prevent coagulation.

Lithium Heparin SST (Mint Green With Yellow Ring)*:

NOT for Lithium assay.

*Note: After the tube has been filled with blood, immediately invert the tube gently several times to prevent coagulation.

Special Tubes

Other tubes for collection of special tests are available upon request. Please contact Synergy Laboratories at (423) 302-3707 before collection.

SPS (Yellow Top Tube)*:

This tube is for blood cultures (routine and AFB) for Microbiology. *Note: After the tube has been filled with blood, immediately invert the tube gently several times to prevent coagulation.

SST (Serum Separator Tube) Red and Yellow "Bullseye" (6 mL) :

The new preferred SST tube is a plastic 6mL Red and yellow (Grenier) and replaces the plastic 8.5 mL red/black marble top serum separator tube and gold top currently in use. This tube is a serum separator tube with clot activator and barrier gel to separate serum from the clot below. This tube is used for common chemistry panels such as the Basic and Comprehensive Metabolic Panels, Lipid Panel, and Hepatic Function Panel and any individual tests contained in these panels.