

ORDER OF THE DRAW

To prevent contamination of tubes with additives from other tubes it is important to draw the tubes in a SPECIFIC order called "the order of the draw". For example, if the additive in the purple stopper tube contaminates the green stopper tube this would cause falsely decreased calcium and increased potassium. Please, JUST DO IT. The sequence of collection of evacuated tubes in a multi-draw should be in this order:

1. Sterile/Blood cultures **(YELLOW TOP OR BOTTLES)**
2. **ROYAL BLUE** - red label for trace metal analysis
3. **LIGHT BLUE** coagulation tube -**NOTE:** If coag tests only are ordered AND you are using a butterfly, draw a discard tube to collect the air in the tubing. Failure to do so will result in a short draw which will be rejected by the lab.
4. **RED** - Non-Additive
5. **RED GEL** separator tube (speckled or "tiger" top)
6. **GREEN** (heparin)
7. **GREEN/GRAY** mottled Plasma Separator Tube (PST) with heparin
8. **LAVENDER** / **PURPLE TOP** and/or **PINK** (EDTA)
9. **GRAY** top (Oxalate/fluoride tube)

