



Client Communications

9200 Wall Street, Austin, TX 78754

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Specimen Collection and Preparation Gel Separation Tube, BD Vacutainer® SST™

In a continuing effort to ensure the quality and identification of all specimens received for testing, we would like to remind our clients of the steps needed to correctly collect, label and process blood specimens.

Prior to collection, check each collection container to ensure it is within the expiration date.

1. Draw specimens in proper order as indicated in chart below.
2. Collection tubes have vacuum. Allow to fill completely. SST™ tubes must be filled within 10% of total collection volume.
3. Invert all SST™ tubes 5 times after collection.
4. Label tubes in presence of patient with 2 patient identifiers, such as patient name and date of birth or bar code label. **NOTE:** Never pre-label tubes.
5. Indicate on the CPL requisition the patient name, date of birth, sex, date and time of blood collection. **NOTE:** Electronic requisitions must be marked with the correct date and time of collection, not date and time order was entered.
6. SST™ tubes must properly clot prior to centrifugation in an upright position for **30 minutes**. Centrifugation is required within **2 hours**.
7. Centrifuge tubes for 15 minutes when using an angle head centrifuge. If centrifuge does not have a timer, watch time carefully to avoid over or under centrifuging. **NOTE:** Do not recentrifuge specimens in the SST™ tubes after the initial spin.
8. Submit specimens with a requisition to the laboratory following required transport temperature.

Chart: Specimen Collection Order

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|----|---|--|
| 1. |  | Blood cultures (invert 8 to 10 times) |
| 2. |  | Light Blue top, citrate tube (invert 3 to 4 times) |
| 3. |  | Red or SST™ gel separator tube (invert 5 times) |
| 4. |  | Green or PST™ gel separator tube with Heparin (invert 8 to 10 times) |
| 5. |  | Lavender, EDTA tube (invert 8 to 10 times) |
| 6. |  | Gray, Fluoride tube (invert 8 to 10 times) |

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