

## Specimen Stability Chart Hematology/ Coagulation/ Urinalysis

TEST	SPECIMEN TYPE	ROOM TEMP	2 - 8 C	- 20 C
CBC	EDTA WHOLE BLOOD	<24 HRS	<36 HRS	N/A
RETIC	EDTA WHOLE BLOOD	<24 HRS	< 36 HRS	N/A
ESR	EDTA WHOLE BLOOD	< 4 HRS	<12 HRS	N/A
SEMEN ANALYSIS		<1 HR / BODY TEMP	NOT ACCEPTED AFTER 2 P.M.	
CSF CELL COUNT	CSF	< 4 HRS		
BODY FLD CELL CT	IN EDTA	< 24 HRS		
MALARIA SMEAR	EDTA WHOLE BLOOD	< 1 HR		
PROTIME	CITRATED PLASMA	24 HRS SPUN OR UNSPUN	>24 HRS. PLASMA MUST BE FROZEN	
PTT	CITRATED PLASMA	< 4 HRS	>4 HRS. PLASMA MUST BE FROZEN	
FIBRINOGEN	CITRATED PLASMA	< 4 HRS	>4 HRS. PLASMA MUST BE FROZEN	
D-DIMER	CITRATED PLASMA *can use EDTA plasma or heparinized plasma, but Citrate is preferred.	< 8 HRS	< 4 DAYS	2 MONTHS
UA		< 2 HRS	< 24 HRS	N/A

### ORDER OF DRAW

1. Blood culture or Blood culture tube (rotate tube 8-10 times)
2. (Extra Blue top tube) \*\* (This tube is only drawn when special coagulation studies are ordered to be drawn.) Studies have shown that the PT and APTT results are not affected if tested on the first tube drawn. When PT, PTT, Dimers, and Fibrinogens are ordered, the order of draw begins with the blue top tube, HOWEVER, YOU WILL ALSO NEED TO SAMPLE AN EXTRA BLUE TOP TUBE BEFORE YOUR BLUE TOP TUBE IF DRAWING FROM A BUTTERFLY DUE TO THE DEAD SPACE IN THE TUBING. Please see note below:

NOTE: When using a winged blood collection set for venipuncture and a coagulation tube is the first tube to be drawn, a discard tube should be drawn first. The discard tube must be used to fill the blood collection tubing dead space and to assure maintenance of the proper anticoagulant/blood ratio and need not be completely filled. The discard tube can be an additional blue top tube.

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|--|--------------------------|
| 3. Coagulation tube (blue top tube)                                | (rotate tube 3-4 times)  |
| 4. Red top plastic tube with clot activator                        | (rotate tube 8-10 times) |
| 5. Gel separator tube (Tiger top tube or yellow top tube with gel) | (rotate tube 8-10 times) |
| 6. Heparin (green top tube)  | (rotate tube 8-10 times) |
| 7. EDTA <sub>2</sub> (lavender top tube)                           | (rotate tube 8-10 times) |
| 8. EDTA <sub>2</sub> (Pink top tube)                               | (rotate tube 8-10 times) |
| 9. Oxalate/fluoride (gray top tube)                                | (rotate tube 8-10 times) |

For syringe draws, the order of draw is the same, except the Blood Culture bottle or tube is always sampled first, and if two syringes are used in the draw, the coagulation (blue top tube) must be sampled from the 2nd syringe.

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List compiled in 2008, Revised in April, 2010				