

Policy #:	401 (PLH-401-04)	Effective Date:	NA	Reviewed Date:	3/12/2010
Subject:	ORDER OF DRAW FOR MULTIPLE BLOOD SAMPLING				
Approved by: Laboratory Executive Director, Ed Hughes (electronic signature)					
Approved by: Laboratory Medical Director, Mark P. Burton, MD (electronic signature)					

ORDER OF DRAW FOR MULTIPLE BLOOD SAMPLING

Emphasis must be placed on the need to adhere to the correct "order of draw" when different tubes are used for multiple blood sampling from a single venipuncture. It is recommended that specimens always be drawn in nonadditive tubes before those additive tubes, to avoid possible contamination.

The citrate additive (blue) tube requires its own set of guidelines. If only a PT or PTT are ordered, no discard tube is needed. For all other coagulation test, a discard tube is recommended. The discard tube can be a red or another blue top tube.

The proper order of draw is:

1. Blood culture bottles
2. Red or blue if any coagulation tests other than PT/PTT ordered (invert 3-4 times)
3. Blue top - must be at least 90% full (invert 3-4 times)
4. Gold top (invert 5 times)
5. Red top (invert 5 times)
6. Green top (invert 8-10 times)
7. EDTA pink and/or purple (invert 8-10 times)
8. Any other tubes

When using a syringe method, follow the same order of draw.

Reference: CLSI H3-A6