

Laboratory Collection Tubes

Laboratory tests are performed on blood specimens which are drawn in a precise manner. Certain tests require tubes which contain no additive so blood will clot, leaving serum. Other tests are performed on blood which has been anticoagulated to prevent it from clotting and thus remaining whole blood. The table lists the types of additives, their corresponding cap color, code, tube volumes and the type of tests most often performed with that tube.

Additive	Tube-Top Color	Code	Total Volume in mL	Average Plasma/Serum Recoverable in mL	Whole Blood Recoverable in mL	Department
EDTA	Lavender	LV	3 5	1.5 2.5	2.5 4.5	Hematology/ Chemistry/Blood Bank
Sodium Citrate	Blue	BL	4	2	4	Coagulation/ Chemistry
Sodium Heparin	Green	GH GR	7 5	3.5 1.2	7 7	Chemistry
Sodium Fluoride	Grey	GY	7	3.5	7	Chemistry
No Additive	Red	RD	10	5	10	Chemistry/Special Chemistry/Blood Bank
Separator Gel Serum	Red/Black or Light Orange or Gold	ST	4 6 10	2 3 4.5	4 6 10	Chemistry/Special Chemistry
Separator Gel Plasma	Green/Black or Light Green	ST GB	4 6 10 6	2 3 4.5 3	4 6 10 6	Chemistry
ACD	Yellow	—	—	—	—	Reference Tests
Blood Culture Media	Green/Maroon Bottle	GB MB	10 10	— —	— —	Microbiology
Blood Culture Media	Yellow Bottle	YB	1 to 4	—	—	Microbiology