



EPA

WEBSITE INFORMATION SHEET

Document Ref: EWG-D-006

Advice on the Use of Vacutainer Tubes
Information Page

Changes from previous revision
Change front page title from 'Standard Operating Procedure' to 'Website Information Sheet'

Author/Reviewer	Ginny Marley
Authorised by	David Stokely
Revision No.	4
Date of Issue	30/01/2024
Review interval	1 year
Signed by Authoriser or Quality Lead (+ print name)	

This is an uncontrolled copy unless signed in blue by the Authoriser or a Quality Lead. This document must not be printed or photocopied without authorisation.

Advice on use of vacutainer tubes

Eastern Pathology Alliance		Title: Advice on the Use of Vacutainer Tubes Information Page	Page 1 of 3
Dept/Site : All		Doc Ref: EWG-D-006	Author: Ginny Marley
Revision: 4	Issue Date 30/01/2024	Authorised by: David Stokely	Review interval: 1 year



The Becton Dickinson (BD) Vacutainer system is designed to be used as a vacuum draw system and is therefore calibrated to withdraw the required volume of venous blood providing it is used as specified by BD. However, there may be occasions when it is not appropriate to use it as designed and venous blood will need to be added to the tubes manually via transfer devices. This process will ensure the correct ratio of blood to anticoagulant. Do not use large tubes for small blood samples as this greatly reduces the volume of serum/plasma which can be obtained, and may increase the ratio blood: anticoagulant, which may adversely influence some results.

Never tip blood from one tube into another

Please note tubes are in the recommended order of draw below:

Microtainer Paediatric Blood Sampling Bottles



Type: EDTA
Used for: FBC, Group & save



Type: Li Heparin
Used for: U&E, LFT, CRP
Bone group



Type: Sodium citrate
Used for: Coagulation



Type: Plain
Used for: Serology



Use this larger EDTA bottle for DNA.
Requires 2 ml blood



Use this larger Li Hep bottle for karyotype, TFT's or Troponin.
Requires 2 ml blood

There is an internal chamber to this tube.
Requires 1.8 ml blood



Type: Fluoride
Used for: Glucose

Eastern Pathology Alliance		Title: Advice on the Use of Vacutainer Tubes Information Page	Page 2 of 3
Dept/Site : All		Doc Ref: EWG-D-006	Author: Ginny Marley
Revision: 4	Issue Date 30/01/2024	Authorised by: David Stokely	Review interval: 1 year



If you need advice on which tube to use contact Clinical Biochemistry on 01603 286919

BD tube guide and Recommended order of draw¹

BD Vacutainer® BD Life Sciences - Integrated Diagnostic Solutions



Cap Colour	Cat. No.	Tube Type	Determinations	Mix by inversion
	N/A	Blood Cultures	Aerobic followed by anaerobic - if insufficient blood for both culture bottles, use aerobic bottle only	NA
	Cat. No. 363095 / KFK119 Draw Volume 2.7ml	Sodium Citrate	Coagulation, INR, D Dimer, Lupus.	3-4
	Cat. No. 367837 / KFK168 Draw Volume 6ml	Serum	Chemistry, Immunology, Microbiology (without gel).	5-6
	Cat. No. 367956 / KFK112 Draw Volume 5ml	SST™ II Advance	Chemistry, Immunology, Microbiology.	6
	Cat. No. 367883 / KFK281 Draw Volume 6ml	Lithium Heparin	Cardiac Markers, PTI.	8-10
	Cat. No. 367375 / KFK129 Draw Volume 4.5ml	PST™ II	Cardiac Markers, PTI.	8-10
	Cat. No. 367839 / KFK171 Draw Volume 4ml	EDTA	FBC, ESR, Malaria Parasites, HbA1c, Insulin.C, PTH	8-10
	Cat. No. 367941 / KFK277 Draw Volume 6ml	Cross Match		8-10
	Cat. No. 368920 / KFK250 Draw Volume 2ml	Fluoride Oxalate	Glucose, Lactate, Alcohol.	8-10
	Cat. No. 368380 / KFK359 Draw Volume 6ml	Trace Elements	Zinc, Selenium	8-10

Determinations and Special Instructions contained within this guide have been provided by the named institute and are not BD recommendations or instructions for the BD products described. Please consult your organisation's guidelines or contact BD should you have any questions.

1. Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) Guidelines GP41-Ed7 (formerly H3-A6, 6th Edition)

IMPORTANT MIXING GUIDELINES

All BD Vacutainer® tubes are designed to be filled to the required draw volume using the BD collection sets and require immediate mixing following collection. Collection of blood into a syringe and transferring into the BD tubes, under filling samples and insufficient mixing can result in sample being unsuitable for testing and/or inaccurate test results. This may result in unnecessary additional requests and the need to redraw. Allow the tubes to fill to the correct volume before removing from the collection set. The correct mixing technique is to gently invert (180° and back) each tube the recommended number of times shown on the right side of the table.

Becton, Dickinson U.K. Limited, 1030 Eskdale Road, Winnersh Triangle, Wokingham, RG41 5TS

bd.com/en-uk



BD, the BD logo, PST, SST and Vacutainer are trademarks of Becton, Dickinson and Company or its affiliates. © 2021 BD. All rights reserved. WEU227.1 (CSD3867, Dec 2021)

NHS
Norfolk and Norwich
NHS Foundation Trust



Eastern Pathology Alliance		Title: Advice on the Use of Vacutainer Tubes Information Page	Page 3 of 3
Dept/Site : All		Doc Ref: EWG-D-006	Author: Ginny Marley
Revision: 4	Issue Date 30/01/2024	Authorised by: David Stokely	Review interval: 1 year