

Order of draw

Reason from the additive, method, and ordered test.

Scope: a venous collection study aid, not a complete clinical procedure. Cap colors and formulations vary. Use the current device instructions and performing laboratory procedure. This sequence does not establish a capillary collection order.

A common venous additive sequence

01	Blood cultures Culture bottle/system: preserve asepsis; bottle order and fill depend on the collection method.
02	Sodium citrate Coagulation specimens: maintain the designed additive-to-blood relationship.
03	Serum with clot activator Serum and separator products: identify the clot activator and separator on the label.
04	Heparin Anticoagulated whole blood/plasma: lithium and sodium heparin are different products.
05	EDTA Anticoagulated specimens: hematology and immunohematology requirements differ.
06	Glycolysis-inhibitor tubes Glucose-related collection: formulations and processing requirements differ.

Four distinctions worth remembering

Plain red is an exception, not a synonym.

Labcorp PT instructions place a nonadditive tube before citrate, but serum tubes with clot initiators after it. Plastic red BD367815 contains clot activator; glass BD366430 is a different product.

Yellow does not mean one additive.

SPS and ACD are different products with different purposes. Do not substitute ACD for a culture system because both may have yellow closures.

Carryover and contamination are different problems.

Additive carryover can bias another specimen. Culture collection also requires asepsis. BD states its collection tubes have sterile interiors; do not describe them all as nonsterile.

Fill, mix, and process by the actual instruction.

Aim for the labeled draw. Acceptance thresholds are test-specific. No universal inversion count, clot time, centrifuge program, or stability period is supplied here. A gray tube does not remove the need for required prompt processing.

Sources and review scope

[Labcorp PT005199: nonadditive/clot-activator distinction and test-specific fill](#)

[BD: citrate product FAQ and sterile interiors; red367815/glass366430; SPS364960/ACD364816](#)

[WHO drawing-blood guideline \(2010\): historical sequence and additive-carryover principle](#)

[Current web teaching and review coverage](#)

AI-assisted source revision: October 13, 2026. No clinician certification or examination endorsement is claimed. Full paid CLSI procedure text was not inspected. Earlier versions remain in source history.