

Label at bedside: Laboratory request form and samples must match the patient

Tube colour	Tube name	Common usage For other tests refer to the Waikato Hospital Laboratory online manual or contact the laboratory Phone: 07 839 8606	Instructions
	BLOOD CULTURES	COLLECT BLOOD CULTURES FIRST	Please take 2 sets (4 bottles, 2 x blue top, 2 x grey top)
	SODIUM CITRATE (Glass)	Coagulation, D-Dimer (Thames only). Special coag tests may require other tube types. Refer to Waikato Hospital lab online manual	Mix tube by gentle inversion 3-4 times
	THROMBO EXACT (Plastic)	Platelet count confirmation if thrombocytopenia felt to be due to EDTA effect (CBC must be tested at the same time)	Collect EDTA for CBC Mix by gentle inversion Send to lab ambient
	CPDA (Plastic)	Tissue typing	Phone Blood Bank for tube Mix tube by gentle inversion 8-10 times
	GOLD SST (Serum Separator) (Plastic)	Routine biochemistry, PTH, Laboratory Troponin I, Routine Endocrinology, Viral serology, Immunology, Lithium, Protein Electrophoresis, Tumour Markers, P3NP, TSH Receptor Antibodies (TSI)	Mix tube by gentle inversion 5 times
	RED	Preferred for Clozapine, Digoxin, and most other routine drugs	Mix tube by gentle inversion 5 times
	HEPARIN (Plastic)	Carboxyhaemoglobin, Methaemoglobin, RBC Phorphyrins, Thiamine, Chromosome studies (MUST be a separate tube), POCT D-Dimer	Mix tube by gentle inversion 8-10 times
	EDTA (Plastic)	CBC, Reticulocytes, CD4, Direct Coombs, ACTH, PRA (Renin), Ammonia, HbA1c, Homocysteine, Cyclosporin, FK506, Haemoglobinopathy studies, Complement Activation, POCT Troponin I, POCT CBC (mix by gentle inversion 5 times)	<i>Homocysteine, ACTH, and Ammonia, must be transported on ice, and the lab notified</i> Mix tube by gentle inversion 8-10 times
	EDTA CROSS-MATCH (Plastic)	7ml EDTA tube for Cross match Tube label MUST be hand-written and signed	Mix tube by gentle inversion 8-10 times
	EDTA (Plastic)	BCR-Abl Q PCR	
	EDTA White	Viral loads – Hep B, Hep C, HIV RNA and DNA studies (MUST be separate tube), PCR	Mix tube by gentle inversion 8-10 times
	EDTA TRACE ELEMENT (Plastic)	Heavy Metals – Zinc, Copper, Aluminium, Lead, Manganese, and Selenium	Ring lab to obtain tube. Mix tube by gentle inversion 8-10 times
	ESR	ESR	Mix tube by gentle inversion 8-10 times Ensure blood runs the length of the tube with each inversion
	QuantiFERON Gold	QuantiFERON TB Gold	Tubes available from Phlebotomists. 1ml only (volume is critical) into each of the tubes in sequence: grey, green, yellow, and purple. Tubes draw slowly. Invert 10 times, ensure the tube surface is coated. Transport at room temperature
	Blood gas syringe (Heparin)	Blood gases, co-oximetry, lactate	Remove air immediately after collection Mix by inversion several times