



Clinical IS Job Aid

Contact IUH Service Desk
helpdesk@iuhealth.org

Effective Date
January 1, 2026

Topic: Specimen Collection Requirements

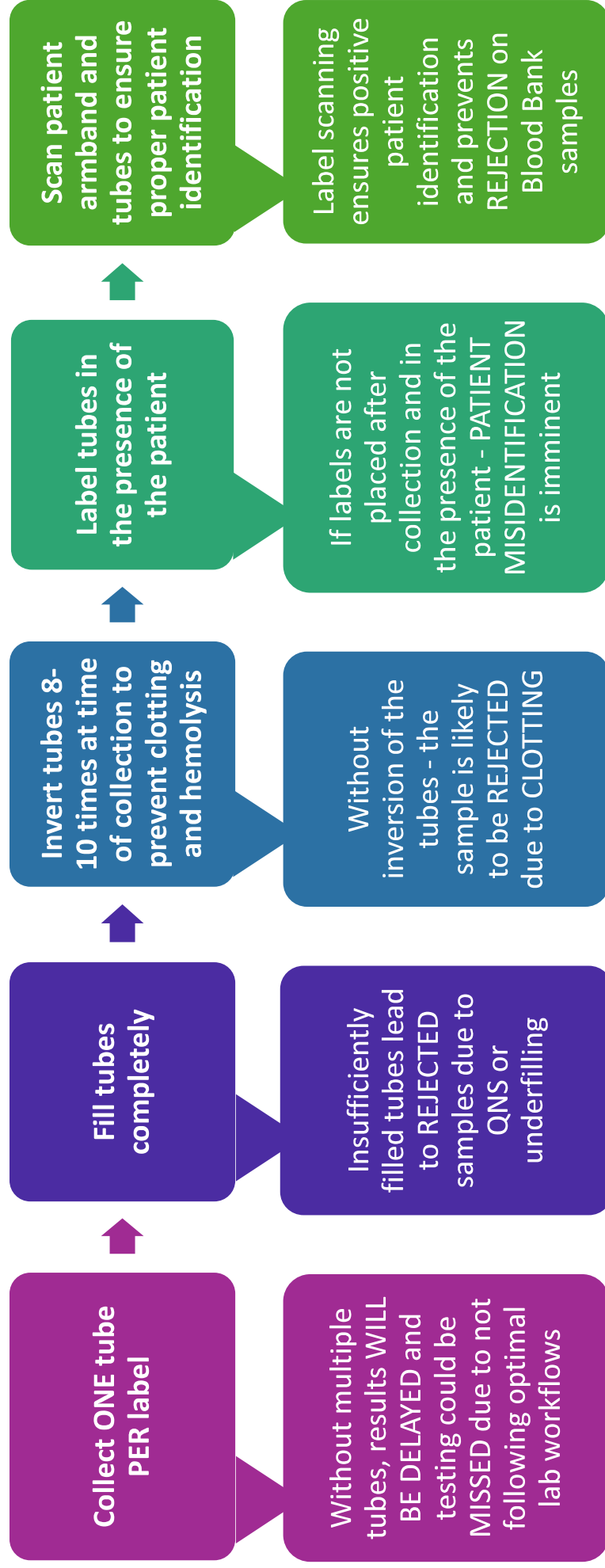
Facility: IU Health

Audience: Nurses, Clinical Support Staff, and all staff collecting specimens for laboratory testing

What: Reviews the requirements of specimen collection to prevent specimen rejection and subsequent specimen recollection.

Why: To improve turnaround time (TAT) and Quality of results to optimize patient care and reduce the length of stay.

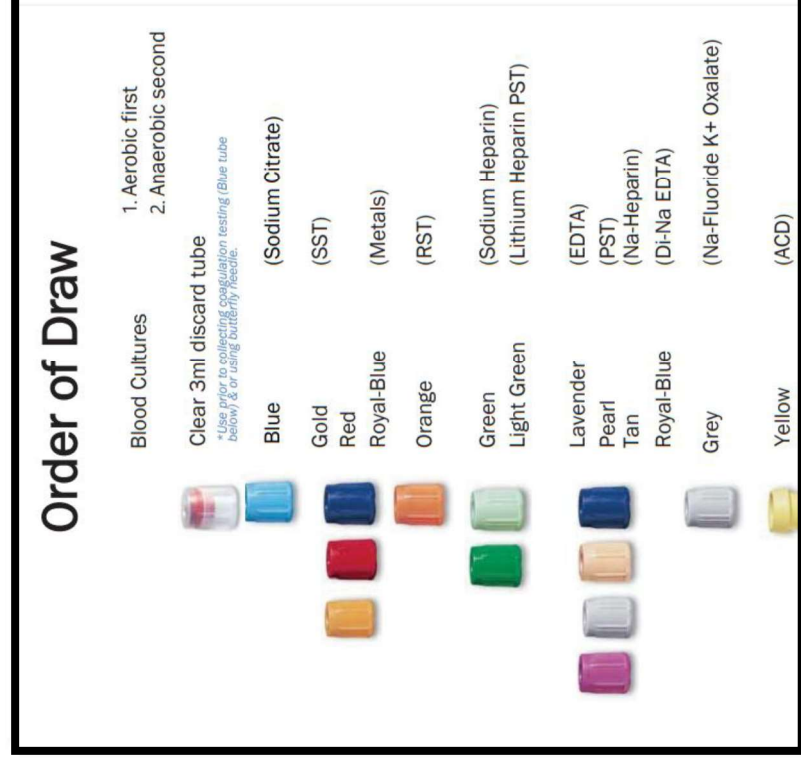
Order of Collection



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More Tips for Success

- Don't leave the tourniquet on for longer than 1 minute
- Don't re-palpate after cleaning the draw site
- Follow the ORDER OF DRAW
- Remove the tourniquet BEFORE removing the needle
- Choose the right vein and equipment
- Causes hemoconcentration (i.e. inaccurate results)
- Causes hemolysis
- Causes contamination of the area
- Causes inaccurate results
- Prevents team member exposure to blood
- Wrong vein, wrong needle, and/or excessive force all lead to hemolysis

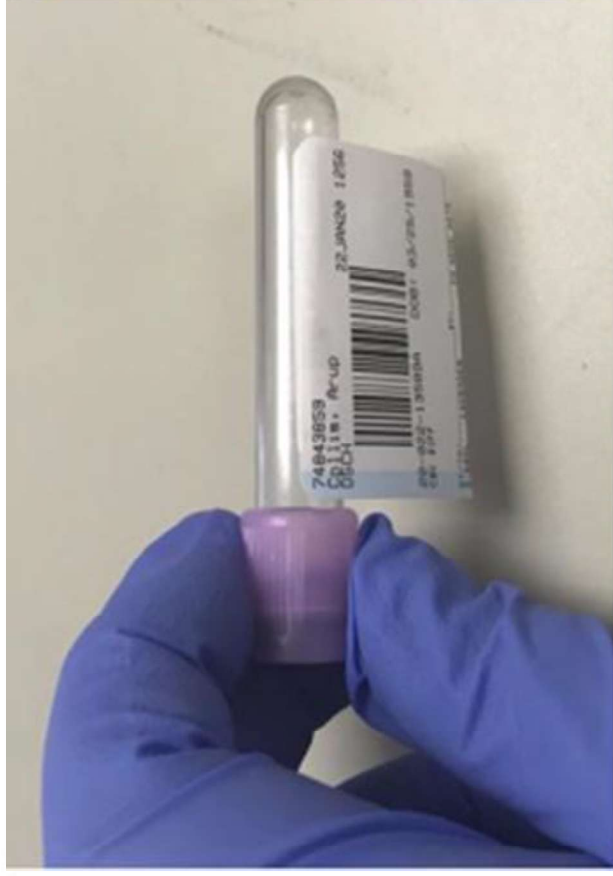


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Proper Label Placement on Tube – 1 Label = 1 Tube

The label must be straight and placed correctly on the tube, so the automation line and the lab analyzers are able to scan, receive, test, and report the sample results. Crooked labels require relabeling of the test tube which leads to increase in TAT and puts us at risk for patient identification errors.



Reminder: Sending lab labels without tubes and requesting the tests be added to what has been collected WILL increase TAT and could result in recollection of the patient.