

Benefis Health System Department of Pathology  
Laboratory/Clinical Policy/Procedure  
Written By: Carol Colgan 4/16/02  
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**TITLE: SPECIMEN CONTAINERS**

*Number:* 1104  
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**POLICY:**

Benefis Health System Laboratory uses specimen containers that have been evaluated by the manufacturer for efficacy and lack of analytical interference to ensure quality specimen collection. Specimen collection supplies such as blood collection tubes and collection devices are used within their expiration date and stored per manufacturer's instructions.

**BLOOD TUBES:**

BD Vacutainer brand blood collection tubes are filled adequately for lab testing. All tubes have Hemogard stoppers for safety purposes. Tubes are selected with the appropriate anticoagulant or additive for each test.

6 ml pink tube	10.8 mg K <sub>2</sub> EDTA 6 ml blood
4 ml purple tube	7.2 mg K <sub>2</sub> EDTA 4.0 ml blood
2 ml purple tube	3.6 mg K <sub>2</sub> EDTA 2.0 ml blood
6 ml green tube	Sodium Heparin 6 ml blood
4.5 ml PST green tube	Lithium Heparin 4.5 ml blood
2.7 ml blue tube	0.3 ml 3.2% Na Citrate 2.7 ml blood
1.8 ml blue tube	0.2 ml 3.2 Na Citrate 1.8 ml blood
6 ml gray tube 12 mg K Oxalate & 15 mg Na Fluoride 15 mg	
6 ml blood	
5 ml yellow tube	SST Gel 5 ml blood

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### **Pediatric Collection Tubes:**

Purple microtainer	K2EDTA 0.500 ml blood
Green microtainer	Lithium Heparin 0.600 mls
Blue pediatric tube	3.2% NaCitrate 1.8 mls

All of the above tubes have anticoagulant preservatives or coagulant in them, therefore, they must be gently rotated approximately 5 times.

### **No Anticoagulants:**

6 ml red tube	6 ml blood
10 ml red tube	10 ml blood

### **Blood Culture Bottles:**

BACTEC Lytic, anaerobic (lavender)  
Optimum volume = 8-10 ml  
Minimum volume = 3 ml

BACTEC Plus, aerobic (silver)  
Optimum volume = 8-10 ml  
Minimum volume = 3 ml

BACTEC Peds Plus, pediatric (pink)  
Optimum volume = 1-3 ml  
Minimum volume = 0.5 mL  
Maximum maximum = 5 mL

PlateletWorks Collagen and EDTA anticoagulant tubes  
Requires blood to be filled at tube's fill line

### **Microbiology Collection Containers:**

Swabs:

- AIMES (blue top)
- LQ Stuart (white)
- LQ Stuart aluminum wire (green)
- LQ Stuart non-gel (red)
- Cary Blair (red)

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Stool containers:

ParaPak C&S (orange)

Sterile urine containers 120 mL

BD Viral Culture Tubes (red topped)

Remel Viral Culture Tubes (blue topped)

### **APPROVAL AND REVIEW:**

Approved by R. Craig Carson 5/10/18

Reviewed by Wade Nelson 5/10/18

**FILE LOCATION:** I:\Lab Procedures 4\Specimen Containers.doc

**DEPARTMENT LOCATION:** COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR