Quest Diagnostics Specimen Collection Tubes

When using a winged blood collection set for venipuncture and a coagulation (citrate) tube is the first specimen to be drawn, a discard tube should be drawn first. The discard tube must be used to fill the blood collection set tubing's "dead space" with blood but the discard tube does not need to be completely filled. This important step will ensure maintenance of the proper blood-to-additive ratio of the blood specimen. The discard tube should be a nonadditive or coagulation tube.

Stopper/Label Color	Laboratory Use	Additive/Inversions at Collection
The stopper color alone does not indicate tube type – also refer to the tube label.		**8 gentle inversions unless otherwise noted**
 **RED/BLACK**	Serum Separator Tube (SST™) for serum determinations in chemistry and serology. Contains separator gel and should not be used for toxicology or drug testing. Inversions ensure mixing of clot activator with blood. Blood clotting time 30 minutes.	• Clot activator and gel for serum separation **5 Inversions**
 **RED**	For serum determinations in chemistry and serology, and for toxicology and drug testing. Glass serum tubes are recommended for blood banking. Plastic tubes contain clot activator and are **not** recommended for blood banking. Inversions ensure mixing of clot activator with blood and clotting within 60 minutes.	• Clot activator **5 Inversions (plastic)** **None (glass)**
 **ROYAL BLUE**	For trace-element, toxicology and nutritional-chemistry determinations. Special stopper formulation provides low levels of trace elements.	• Sodium heparin • Na_2 EDTA • None (serum tube)
 **GREEN**	For plasma determinations in chemistry. Tube inversions prevent clotting.	• Sodium heparin • Lithium heparin
 **GRAY**, *and* White Label	For glucose determinations. Oxalate and EDTA anticoagulants will give plasma samples. Sodium fluoride is the antiglycolytic agent. Inversions ensure proper mixing of additive and blood.	• Potassium oxalate/sodium fluoride • Sodium fluoride/Na_2 EDTA
 **TAN**	For lead determinations. This tube is certified to contain less than 0.01 µg/mL (ppm) lead. Inversions prevent clotting.	• Sodium heparin (glass) • K_2 EDTA (plastic)
 **YELLOW**, *and* White Label with Yellow Horizontal Stripe	Glass tube with liquid ACD for use in blood bank studies, HLA phenotyping, DNA, paternity testing, etc.	• Acid Citrate Dextrose **(ACD)**: **Solutions A/B** additives – Trisodium citrate 22.0/13.2, citric acid 8.0/4.8 and dextrose 24.5/14.7 (in g/L)
 **YELLOW** (CULTURE), *and* No Paper Label (adult tube) or Yellow Label (pediatric tube)	Glass tube with liquid SPS anticoagulant for mycobacterial (tuberculosis) and fungus blood culture.	• Sodium Polyanethol Sulfonate (SPS) 0.35% in 0.85% Sodium Chloride
 **LAVENDER**	K_2 EDTA for whole blood hematology determinations and immunohematology testing (ABO grouping, Rh typing, antibody screening). Inversions prevent clotting.	• Spray-dried K_2 EDTA
 **LIGHT BLUE**	For coagulation determinations. NOTE: Certain tests may require chilled specimens. Follow recommended procedures for collection and transport. Inversions prevent clotting.	• 0.105 M sodium citrate (≈3.2%) **4 Inversions**
Urine Specimens		
 **GRAY**, *and* Yellow Label	For culture and sensitivity (C&S) urine testing. **Minimum urine volume is 5 mL.** For lower volumes, submit refrigerated urine in a sterile container without preservatives.	• Boric acid, sodium formate **Shake vigorously**
 **YELLOW PLASTIC**, *and* Yellow Label	For urinalysis testing. Inversions ensure preservative is properly mixed. **Note the fill lines. Do not under fill (<2 mL) or overfill (>10 mL).**	• Preservative

Note: For quality blood sample collecting information, see inside back cover.