Tube Guide



EDTA whole blood

The Lavender (purple) top tube (plus 2 blood smears) should be submitted for hematology without separation or freezing but should be kept cool.



Citrate plasma

The Light blue top tube, for samples removed after centrifugation of blood, should be kept cool and can be submitted for most comparative coagulation tests.



Serum

The Red top tube is for the supernatant that is removed after a clot has formed and centrifugation of blood. For certain tests in clinical pathology and endocrinology the serum must be separated for accurate results.



Heparinized plasma

The Green top tube is for samples removed after centrifugation of blood and can be submitted for many clinical pathology chemistry tests.



Serum separator tubes

Tiger top tubes can be substituted for red top tubes in some instances but should be avoided for certain endocrinology and clinical pathology tests. These tubes should be centrifuged after the clot forms and the serum transferred to a separate container or cryovial.

