

Tube type and order	Common tests	Instructions
 Blood Cultures	Microbiology: Septicaemia, Toxaemia, and bacterial culture.	Aerobic (blue cap) bottle MUST be collected first then Anaerobic Lytic (purple cap), Paediatric Collection - Pink cap bottle only. Mix the specimen with gentle agitation by inverting 8-10 times. Store at room temperature.
 Sodium Citrate (Light Blue)	Coagulation: INR, APTT, Coagulation studies, Factor VIII, Lupus anticoagulant, D-Dimer, Protein C+S, AT3, Platelet Function test.	Correct volume critical – see marker level on tube. Mix well by gently inverting 3-4 times after collection.
 Plain (Red)	Special Biochemistry: Vitamin A, Vit E, Vit K, some Therapeutic drugs re online manual.	Mix well by gently inverting 5 times after collection.
 SST (Gold)	Biochemistry: Lipids, LFT, EUC, Cardiac Enzymes, Troponin, Lipase, Calcium, Phosphate, Ionised Calcium, Iron studies, Protein Assays, TFT, CRP, B12, Vit D, Endocrinology, Fertility, β HCG, Tumour markers, PSA. Serology/Immunology: Hepatitis, HIV, Viral antibodies, Rubella, Syphilis, ANA, Rheumatoid Factor, Allergy, EPG, RAST.	For Creatinine Clearance or 24hr Urine Electrolytes: Collect SST tube when 24hr urine is submitted. Mix well by gently inverting 5 times after collection. Allow to stand for 30mins after collection. Centrifuge for 10mins.
 Lithium Heparin (Green)	Biochemistry: Plasma Metanephrines, Cholinesterase, red cell & Insecticide – organochlorines. Cytogenetics: Chromosome Studies. Flow Cytometry: Memory B Cell Markers.	Mix well by gently inverting 8-10 times after collection.
 Trace Element (Dark Blue)	Biochemistry: Trace elements serum with clot activator eg Zinc (Zn) and Copper (Cu) for serum/plasma	Mix well by gently inverting 8-10 times after collection. Allow to stand for min 30mins. Centrifuge for 10mins.
 EDTA (Lavender)	Haematology: FBC, ESR, Blood film, Hb, Diff, Platelets, Hb Electrophoresis (EPG), Thick/Thin films. Flow Cytometry: Lymphocyte Surface Markers, T&B Cells. Blood Bank: Blood Group, Rh and Red Cell Antibodies, Direct Coombs Test. Biochemistry: HbA1C, Ammonia. Molecular Genetics: Haemochromatosis, Factor V Leiden, MTHFR, HLA B27, Coeliac Tissue Typing. Genetic Carrier Screening - Prepair min vol 2mL.	Mix well by gently inverting 8-10 times after collection. Collect dedicated tube for Molecular Genetics. All Blood Banking Samples: Collect for Blood Group and Antibody screen. Full patient ID required. Dr/Collector must SIGN tube and PDB declaration on the request form to verify patient details.
 PPT EDTA (Pearl)	PTH, Homocysteine, ACTH.	Mix well by gently inverting 8-10 times after collection. Centrifuge asap after collection.
 Streck tube	NIPT - <i>Percept</i> .	Min vol 7ml, invert 10 times immediately after collection. Place in plastic container. Min 10-week gestation.
 Flouride Oxalate (Grey)	Biochemistry: Glucose, Lactate, GTT.	Mix well by gently inverting 8-10 times after collection.