

## BLOOD SPECIMEN INFORMATION



Filling blood tubes in their correct order is essential. If you do not follow the proper sequence, the various anticoagulants may cause cross contamination resulting in erroneous test results.



1. Specimen tubes should be filled within 1 minute and mixed gently.
2. Specimen tubes should be fully filled in the following order (See table 2.1):

**Table 2.1: Order of blood tubes**

COLOR OF TOP	ADDITIVES
1. Red	None
2. Blue	Citrate
3. Green	Heparin
4. Yellow/Marble	Clot activator
5. Purple	EDTA

3. Indications for blood draws will be limited to:
  - ✓ Medical cases requiring laboratory documentation
  - ✓ Suspected hypoglycemia (prior to IV glucose)
  - ✓ Suspected drug overdose
  - ✓ Unconscious patient, unknown cause
  - ✓ Trauma patients
  - ✓ Hypotensive patient, unknown cause
  - ✓ Suspected MI
  - ✓ Suspected stroke
  - ✓ Unstable medical condition

4. Use the following method of transporting field blood samples:
  - I. Label the blood tubes specimen bag with the patient's name, date, time of draw, and the initials and agency of drawer.
  - II. Place the blood tubes specimen in a sealable plastic bag bearing a bio-hazard logo and tape it to the patient's IV bag.
5. Legal blood alcohol specimens. Use aseptic technique (povidone-iodine and **no** alcohol swabs).



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Blood may be drawn at the request of law enforcement as provided in RCW 46.20.308. Document law enforcement request on "Direction to Take Blood Test"

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**SEE NEXT PAGE FOR EXAMPLE FORM**

### DIRECTIONS TO TAKE BLOOD TEST

The undersigned states that \_\_\_\_\_ is either:

- Unconscious
- Has had a Search Warrant issued for blood to be drawn
- Is under arrest/in custody for the crime of vehicular homicide as provided in RCW 46.61.520 or vehicular assault as provided in RCW 46.61.522.
- Is under arrest/in custody for the crime of driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs as provided in RCW 46.61.502 and/or RCW 46.20.308.

The undersigned directs Spokane County EMS to administer a blood test without the consent of the individual so unconscious or so arrested.

OFFICER \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_