UCSF Blood Collection Tube Types and Their Generic Uses

#1 * Blue top (citrate) = Coagulation Tests

#2 Gold top (SST) = Serum Chemistries,

#3 Red top = Serum samples for tests where the gel in the SST tube may interfere, e.g. drug levels, hormones, many send-outs

#4 Dark Green top (Na-Hep) = Heparinized plasma or whole blood for cytogenetics and esoteric metabolic tests

#5 Light Green top (Li-Hep, PST) = Plasma samples for common chemistry tests. Preferred to SST as it can be processed faster. Brown pedi version for bilirubin. Note: lithium is toxic to white cells, do not substitute for Dark Green top

#5 Purple top (6 mL) = Primarily for Blood Bank studies or where a large volume of EDTA blood is needed

#6 Navy blue top (EDTA) = Whole blood for CBC’s and morphology, PCR genetic testing, flow cytometry

#7 Purple top (EDTA) = Trace (heavy) metal testing

#9 Gray top (oxalate) = Oxalate inhibits cellular metabolism. Used for glucose tolerance, lactate and pyruvate testing

#10 Yellow top (ACD) = Esoteric send-out tests requiring viable white cells, e.g. HLA testing

* Numbers in red indicate draw order

NOTE: This information is very generic. Refer to the on-line lab manual for specific information on acceptable tube/sample types for each test. Remember, if drawing blood cultures they should be drawn before any other tubes to prevent contamination.