

VACUETTE® SELECTION CHART

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust

Blood Cultures should be drawn first (aerobic followed by anaerobic)

Then fill tubes in the following order

Item Number	Volume	Cap Colour / Ring Colour	Tube Type	Common Tests	Special Instructions
1 454327	3.5 ml	 Blue / Black	Trisodium Citrate	PT, INR, APTT, D - Dimers, Thrombophilia Screens (x4) Plus 1 Ochre & 1 Lavender Lupus Screens (x2) Plus 1 Ochre	MUST be filled to the line
2 456018	5 ml	 Ochre / Ochre	Clotting Accelerator and Separation Gel	Routine Chemistry, Hormones, Most Drugs, Viral Studies (Micro), B12, Folate, Ferritin, Copper, Zinc, Alcohol, PBNP	
3 454084	4 ml	 Green / Black	Li Heparin	Plasma U&E, Ketones, Cytogenetics	MUST be sent to the Laboratory IMMEDIATELY
4 454086	3 ml	 Lavender / Black	EDTA	FBC, IM, Hb Variants, Sickle Cell, Reticulocytes, Malarial Parasites, PTH, Lead, TPMT, Renin, Aldosterone, Metadrenaline, Chromium, Cobalt, ACTH	
5 454022	3 ml	 Red / Black	EDTA	HbA1C ONLY	
6 454238	2 ml	 Grey / Black	NaF/EDTA	Glucose, Lactate	
7 729073	1.5 ml	 Black / Black	Trisodium Citrate for ESR	ESR	IMPORTANT: Tube should ONLY be half filled. (NOTE: Tube to be discontinued in 2026, Lavender tube will be the alternative).
8 456242	6 ml	 Pink / Black	EDTA for Cross-match	Blood Group, Antibody Screen, Crossmatch	One sample for all
9 456080	6 ml	 Royal Blue / Black	Sodium Heparin Trace Elements	Some rare Trace Metals	

IMPORTANT
Hold tube in place with the thumb until filled to the required level.



Recommended order of draw for routine coagulation - if no blood culture is required, then: Coagulation, Serum, Heparin, EDTA, Glucose, followed by all the other tubes with additives.

For speciality coagulation testing, if no blood culture is required please use a discard tube prior to the above order of draw. These are guidelines only, always follow your facility's protocol.

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