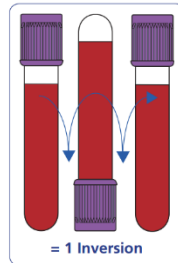


Avoiding Hemolysis and Clotting

- Avoid line draws.** IV devices may hemolyze red cells.
- Use the right needle.** Use a 21 or 22-gauge needle for routine blood draws.
 - Note: Too much pressure through a small gauge needle increases the chance for a hemolyzed specimen.
- Use the correct tube for the type of blood being drawn.** Review the lab catalog for correct tube type.
- Follow the order of draw.** When collecting multiple tubes, follow the proper order of draw to prevent contamination from additives in other tubes.
- Do not leave the tourniquet on for longer than 60 seconds.** Also, doublecheck the lab catalog to see if a tourniquet is not allowed for draw.
- Warm the site.** Warming the puncture site increases blood flow.
- Allow the disinfectant to dry.** Make sure the disinfectant used to clean the site is completely dry before drawing blood. Do not fan, blow on, or wipe the area with gauze.
- Position the needle properly.** Insert into vein at a 15–30-degree angle.
- Be gentle if using a syringe.** Pull the plunger of the syringe gently and draw the blood evenly. Don't push hard on the plunger when filling tubes.
- Fill the tube completely.** Drawing a full tube prevents improper blood-to-additive ratio.
- Mix immediately and avoid vigorous shaking.** Gently invert the tube 8-10 times right after drawing the blood to thoroughly mix any additive with the specimen.



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- Store properly.** See the lab catalog for more information on how to store and transport specimens.

Reminders:

- ✓ Check the lab catalog for correct collection information: <https://corewellhealth.org/labcatalog>
- ✓ Specimen container and order have at least three patient identifiers listed:
 1. Full Legal Name
 2. Date of Birth
 3. Last four digits of the Social Security number, Phone Number, Address or Zip code.