

# NHS Lothian order of blood draw

See the test directory for the correct tube type for each test (<https://edinburghlabmed.co.uk/TestDirectory/Pages/default>).

It is important to follow the order of draw to ensure that the lab can provide accurate patient results. This order must also be followed if using a needle and syringe to take a sample (and ensure the correct cap goes on the correct tube)

Please do not pour samples between tubes (additives in the tubes are for the preservation of samples but they can cause erroneous results for some tests).

Please ensure coag and ESR tubes are filled correctly because the ratio of blood to anticoagulant directly affects results. Underfilled and overfilled samples will be rejected by the lab.

Invert tubes immediately after blood collection 6-8 times.

If blood cultures are needed, collect these first.

①



Serum/Serum gel

Store upright after collection and inversion to help clotting

②



Tri sodium citrate

If a butterfly device is used and a citrate tube is the only tube needed, draw a discard tube first. This is important to ensure that the tube is correctly filled.

③



Lithium heparin

④



Potassium EDTA

⑤



Fluoride

Please contact Mehran Baig ([mehran.baig@sarstedt.com](mailto:mehran.baig@sarstedt.com)) if you would like further training from Sarstedt.