

# Don't Misuse My Blood



## Tube Volume Selection

### Adult Critical Care

March 2025

#### Purpose:

Reduce blood loss from lab testing

#### Important Considerations:

- Ensure tube is filled completely
- Add-ons can still be ordered when using a small volume tube
- Some special tests require a standard tube–refer to lab direction
- Pause before you poke: Is the blood test truly needed?

Tube color/Type	Small Volume tube size	Examples of Tests for Small Volume Tubes	Standard Volume tube size	Tests for Standard Volume tube
<b>Lavender EDTA</b>	<b>2 mL</b>	CBC CBC&D Hematology tests	4mL	Type and Screen
<b>Mint Green PST</b> Lithium Heparin	<b>3 mL</b>	Electrolytes Troponin	No longer used in ICU	
<b>Lime Barricor</b> Lithium Heparin	<b>3 mL</b>	Troponin (select sites)	No longer used in ICU	
<b>Grey Oxalate</b>	<b>2 mL</b>	Lactate (that are not analyzed on ABG/VBG)	No longer used in ICU	



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## Blood Drawing Tips

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### Always fill the tube to the fill indicator mark

- Small volume tubes will **fill slower** than standard tubes
- Small volume tubes contain **less vacuum**, resulting in a slower draw time
- This is easier on the veins of the patient

Tubes contain additives:

- Fill the tube to the fill line to ensure the **correct ratio** of blood to additive
- This will **reduce the risk** of requiring a redraw
- Follow the Order of Draw guidelines to reduce risk of contamination

### Waste requirements for blood draws

Line Type	Waste Amount
Arterial Line and CVC	Use a VAMP to reinfuse after blood draw
CVC	<b>6 mL</b> (9 mL if tunneled)
PIV	<b>1 to 2 mL</b>
Venipuncture	No need to waste <b>unless</b> using a butterfly
Venipuncture with butterfly (try to avoid using a butterfly)	Use a discard tube (transparent <b>red</b> ) to clear the air from the butterfly tubing prior to collecting the sample

