

Collection directions

Lab solutions designed for home healthcare providers



Lab-in-a-Box is a proprietary kit for laboratory testing to **help evaluate the condition of home health care patients**. With multiple delivery options, this service is designed to meet the unique needs of home health care providers.

The Lab-in-a-Box system combines the use of stabilized anticoagulated blood specimens with a unique transport delivery system, all designed to simplify specimen handling while maintaining preanalytical specimen integrity.

Tubes



Green top

Used for chemistry tests (i.e., lipid profiles, liver function, magnesium, phosphorus) and therapeutic drug levels

Note: Generally, only one green top tube is required, but we supply two in case you are drawing a peak and trough drug level



Light blue top

Used for prothrombin time (PT and PT/INR)



Gray top

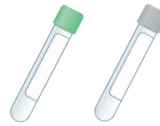
Used for glucose testing only



Purple top

Used for complete blood counts (CBC with differential, CBC without differential)

Tube combinations



Green top and gray top

These two tubes are required for most chemistry panels:

- Comprehensive Metabolic Panel (CMP)
- Basic Metabolic Panel (BMP)
- Total Parenteral Nutrition Panel (TPN)

Note

Some lab tests require tubes other than the ones listed here. For example, a red top tube is required for serum protein electrophoresis (SPE), and a royal blue top tube is required for trace metals, such as manganese. Labcorp will gladly supply these tubes for you by request. Please contact your account manager or customer service at 888-522-4452 for specimen requirements or if you have questions regarding a specific test.

Successful collection leads to successful testing

Successful Lab-in-a-Box testing begins with accurate collection, leading to successful testing for more effective patient care. Please follow the Lab-in-a-Box process.

1. Selection of the collection container:

- Please refer to the test request form (TRF) for specimen collection requirements for each test
- Collect and submit only the tube(s) necessary for the test(s) ordered

2. Order of draw based on Labcorp's Directory of Services:

Since tubes contain specific additives, the order of draw is critical to prevent potential carryover.

Please observe the following collection order as applicable:

1. Light blue top tube
2. Red top tube
3. Green top tube
4. Purple top or royal blue top tube
5. Gray top tube

3. Specimen stability:

Labcorp strongly recommends processing of samples at one of our regional laboratories within 24 hours of collection.

Although delivery to a Labcorp patient service center (PSC) is preferred, prearranged drop box locations and FedEx® delivery are also options. The chart below highlights select, frequently ordered tests and the various delivery methods required for specimen stability.

Time-sensitive tests						
Test no.	Test description	Collection tube	Psc drop off	Drop box	Fedex *	Special handling
001222	Bilirubin, direct	Green top	✓	✓	-	-
001099	Bilirubin, total	Green top	✓	✓	-	-
331327	Comp metabolic panel**	Green & gray top	✓	✓	-	-
303754	Electrolyte panel	Green top	✓	✓	-	-
001024	Phosphorous	Green top	✓	✓	-	-
001180	Potassium	Green top	✓	✓	-	-
005199	PT/INR	Light blue top	✓	✓	-	-
376839	Renal function	Green & gray top	✓	✓	-	-
005215	Sedimentation rate/ESR	Purple top	✓	✓	-	-
001800	Zinc	Royal blue top	-	-	-	Must be drawn in trace metal Lab-in-a-Box kit
Other commonly ordered tests						
005009	CBC with differential	Purple top	✓	✓	✓	-
006627	C-Reactive protein	Green top	✓	✓	✓	-
001537	Magnesium	Green top	✓	✓	✓	-
001172	Triglycerides	Green top	✓	✓	✓	-
070328	Vancomycin trough	Green top	✓	✓	✓	-

4. Packaging for delivery:

Lab-in-a-Box's dual TempPack system maintains optimal temperature inside the box when properly conditioned. Follow conditioning and packaging directions on the box.

Contact your local account representative or call **888-522-4452** for more information.

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