

# Lab-in-a-Box® Collection Directions

LAB SOLUTIONS DESIGNED FOR THE HOME HEALTH CARE PROVIDER



Lab-in-a-Box is a proprietary kit for laboratory testing **to help evaluate the condition of the home health care patient.** 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 (ie, lipid profiles, liver function, magnesium, phosphorus) and therapeutic drug levels

**NOTE: Generally only 1 green-top tube is required; we supply 2 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 **2 tubes** are required for most chemistry panels:

- Complete Metabolic Panel (CMP)
- Basic Metabolic Panel (BMP)
- TPN panels

**NOTE:** Some lab tests require tubes other than the ones listed above. 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 a LabCorp PSC.
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	✓	✓	✓	-

\* To ensure preanalytical sample quality, it is recommended to collect specimens Monday-Thursday.

\*\* CMP testing includes Potassium, which has a 24-hour stability requirement when using Lab-in-a-Box. If not received within 24-hours, specimen could provide inaccurate results.

### 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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