

Metal / Trace Element Blood Collection Quick Guide

For complete list of laboratory tests and details, please see instructions in Lab Test Catalog (*LabMan*).

Each individual test may have specific requirements or special preparations.

(<http://seattlechildrenslab.testcatalog.org>)

- **Royal Blue with EDTA lavender label** (venous collection for whole blood tests)
 - **NOTE:** Royal Blue is sometimes written as Dark Blue. Refer to photo.
 - **TESTS:**
 - **Lead, Venous, with Demographics, Blood** (LAB98)
 - **Mercury, Blood** (LAB831)
 - **Arsenic, Blood** (ArsenicWB / LAB2812)
 - **Cadmium, Blood** (LAB2877)
 - **Beryllium, Blood** (FBERY)
 - **Specimen type:** Whole blood. Do not centrifuge or aliquot. Refrigerated is preferred.
 - **NOTE:** Attach the patient label so that the lavender color stripe is visible.



- **Royal Blue with red serum label** (venous collection for serum tests)
 - **NOTE:** Royal Blue is sometimes written as Dark Blue. Refer to photo.
 - **TESTS:**
 - **Zinc, Serum** (LAB581)
 - **Copper, Serum** (LAB817)
 - **Selenium, Serum** (LAB579)
 - **Aluminum, Serum** (LAB665)
 - **Iodine, Serum** (Iodine Level / LAB3232)
 - **Manganese, Serum** (LAB1050)
 - **Chromium, Serum** (LAB967)
 - **Molybdenum, Serum** (LAB3318)
 - **Specimen type:** Serum. Process and aliquot prior to sendout.
 - **Processing instructions:**
 - After collection, allow the sample to sit upright at room temperature for 30 minutes in order to fully clot.
 - Centrifuge the sample to separate serum from cell layer.
 - Aliquot serum into a plastic **METAL FREE** aliquot tube (do not disturb the cell layer).
 - Label the METAL FREE tube with a patient label and a red **SERUM** sticker.
 - **NOTE:** Attach the patient label so that the "METAL FREE" line remains visible.
 - **NOTE:** If you do not have a red SERUM sticker, write "SERUM" somewhere on the patient label.
 - Refrigerate (preferred) serum sample and send to lab.



- **Lavender EDTA MAP Microtainer** (capillary collections for whole blood tests)
 - TESTS:
 - **Lead, Capillary, with Demographics, Blood (LAB830)**
 - **Specimen type:** Whole blood. Do not centrifuge or aliquot. Refrigerated is preferred.
 - **NOTE:** Capillary collections can be susceptible to contamination from environmental elements. Venous collections are recommended, when possible. Do not put venous blood in a microtainer.



Order of Draw: tubes for metal/trace element testing should be collected first in their additive group, based on the standard order of draw (see [Order of Draw](#) quick guide). E.g. a Royal Blue EDTA Lavender tube would be collected right before a regular EDTA Lavender tube, but after other tube colors that are higher on the priority list.

If there are any questions about specimen collection, please refer to the **Lab Test Catalog (LabMan)** or contact the **Lab Sendouts** department: **206-987-2563**