

HomeMed

Guidelines for Obtaining Laboratory Samples

DRUG LEVELS[†]

Test	Container ^{††}	Volume Requirement/material	Timing ^{†††}	Specimen Prep & Storage
Amikacin	SST	0.5mL serum (min 0.25mL)	Traditional dosing: Peak: 30min after 30 min infusion Trough: just before dose Extended interval (daily) dosing: 18 hours after dose (6 hours before next dose)	Centrifuge & Refrigerate
Cyclosporine (Neoral, Gengraf, Sandimmune)	Lavender	2mL whole blood (min 1mL)	Trough (just before dose)	Mix tube by inversion to prevent clotting No centrifuge Refrig or Rm Temp
Digoxin (Lanoxin)	Red	0.5mL serum (min 0.25mL)	At least 8 hours after last oral dose	Centrifuge & Refrigerate
Gentamicin	SST or Red	0.5mL serum (min 0.25mL)	See Amikacin	Centrifuge & Refrigerate
Phenytoin	Red (NO SST)	0.5mL serum (min 0.25mL)	Trough (just before dose)	Centrifuge & Refrigerate
Tacrolimus (FK06, Prograf)	Lavender	2mL whole blood (min 2mL)	Trough (just before dose)	Mix tube by inversion to prevent clotting No centrifuge Refrig or Rm Temp
Tobramycin	SST	0.5mL serum (min 0.25mL)	See Amikacin	Centrifuge & Refrigerate
Vancomycin	SST or Red	0.5mL serum (min 0.25mL)	Trough (just before dose) or at time specified on order Note: Peaks not routinely used	Centrifuge & Refrigerate

[†]**Drug Levels:** Always assess if any recent doses were missed or given significantly early or late. If so, contact pharmacy prior to draw to determine if draw should be rescheduled.

Document on the laboratory requisition, the time of each draw, and whether it was obtained peripherally or through a venous access device.

Avoid, whenever possible, drawing drug levels using IV access through which medications were infused. Medications adhere and leach from catheter tubing causing inaccurate results, despite vigorous flushing. Draw these levels via peripheral access. If infusion catheter must be used, please inform pharmacy.

^{††}**Container:** SST = Serum separator tube = Gold Top = Corvac (has clot activator additive)
Red Top (has no additive)
Lavender Top (has EDTA additive)
Green Top (has sodium heparin or lithium heparin additive)

^{†††}**Timing:** Indicate draw time **and** whether peak, trough, or random level on lab requisition.