**HomeMed**  
Guidelines for Obtaining Laboratory Samples

## DRUG LEVELS†

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| **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** (NO SST)| Red         | 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 | 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.