



EFLM TFG-STCC Proposal for the color coding standard of the blood tube closures

Specimen type	Additive	ISO 4822 (1981) ‡	BS 4851 (1982)	ISO 6710 (1995)	CLSI H1-A5 (2003)	CLSI GP41-A6* (2007)	Swedish standard SS-872805 (2011)	EFLM proposal (color)
Serum	Clot activator	Z (no additive)	White (no additive)	Red	Red	Red	Red	
Serum with gel	Gel, clot activator	NA	NA	NA	NA	Red	Yellow	
Plasma	Li-Heparin	LH (Li-heparin)	Orange (Li-heparin)	Green	Green	Green	Dark green	
Plasma with gel	Gel, Li-heparin	NA	NA	NA	NA	Green	Light green	
Plasma	Citrate (1:9)	9 NC	Indigo	Light blue	Blue	Blue	Light blue	
Whole blood	Citrate (1:4)	4 NC	Mauve	Black	Black	NA	Black	
Whole blood	EDTA	KE (K salt) LE (Lithium salt) NE (Sodium salt)	Pink	Lavender	Lavender	Lavender or Pearl	Lavender	
Plasma EDTA with gel	Gel, EDTA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Lavender or Pearl	White or pearl	
Plasma	Glycolytic inhibitor	FX	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	

‡ - ISO 4822 standard had suggested a letter coding for different anticoagulants (the standard did not contain color coding proposal)

* - (former H03-A6)