# Quantiferon-TB Gold In-Tube

Collection and Handling of Quantiferon –TB Gold Blood Test Tubes

The Quantiferon-TB Gold In-Tube assay (QFT) utilizes 3 specialized blood collection tubes. Test specific antigens have been dried into the inner wall of the blood collection tubes so it is essential that only these tubes are used for this test. **Immediately after filling tubes, shake them 10 times just firmly enough to ensure the entire inner surface of the tube is coated with blood to solubilize antigens on tube walls.**

### Step 1
For each patient, 1 mL of blood must be collected into each of three Quantiferon_TB Gold blood collection tubes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tube Color</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gray Top</td>
<td>NIL tube (Draw this tube first)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Top</td>
<td>TB Antigen tube (Draw second)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Top</td>
<td>Mitogen tube (Draw third)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**No substitutions can be made for these tubes**

***If other labs are to be drawn at the same time, the QFT tubes must be collected first.***

### Step 2
Following standard venipuncture procedure for patient preparation and labeling, collect 1 mL of blood directly into each of the three tubes. As the tubes fill slowly, **keep the tube on the needle for 2-3 seconds after the tube appears to have completed filling** to ensure the correct volume is drawn. The black line on the side of each tube indicate the 1 mL fill volume.

*If a butterfly needle is used for collection, a purge tube must be collected first and discarded to ensure the tubing is filled with blood prior to the QFT tubes being used.*

### Step 3
Mix each tube by shaking them 10 times just firmly enough to ensure the entire inner surface of the tube is coated with blood to solubilize antigens on tube walls. **Over energetic shaking may cause gel disruption and could lead to aberrant results.**

### Step 4
Label tubes appropriately. **Ensure each tube (NIL, TB Antigen, Mitogen) remains identifiable by its label** once the cap is removed. Please ensure black specimen fill line is not covered with label. Tubes must be kept at room temperature (17-25°C) and must reach the laboratory within 16 hours.