Pediatric Blood Sample Algorithm

Start

Is the patient younger than 12 months old?

---

No

Does the patient have a low white cell count?

---

No

Draw 4-6mL whole blood in EDTA (lavender top) tubes.

Yes

Is this the first sample for this patient?

---

No

Consider an alternative sample source: 2-3 T25 flasks of cultured fibroblasts* or DNA extracted from a skin biopsy. If a second source is not possible, please draw an additional 9mL whole blood in EDTA (lavender top) tubes.

Yes

Draw a minimum of 9mL whole blood in EDTA (lavender top) tubes.

---

Yes

Is the patient a critically ill inpatient or underweight newborn?

---

No

Draw a minimum of 3mL whole blood in EDTA (lavender top) tube(s).

Yes

Draw a small volume of blood into EDTA (lavender top) tubes over several days until you obtain 3mL of pooled samples. Keep all samples refrigerated.

*If sending cultured cells, a backup culture should be maintained by the referring institution or lab until testing is complete.