
LAB ALERT

Date: June 7, 2021

Nationwide Shortage of Light Blue Citrate Tubes and Surepath™ Vials

Dear Regional Pathology Clients,

There is a severe nationwide shortage of **light blue sodium citrate blood collection tubes** used for coagulation laboratory tests such as prothrombin time (PT), activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT), fibrinogen, and D-dimer.



- **Currently, no other substitute tube is readily available for coagulation testing**
- This shortage is expected to last through summer 2021
- Distribution of this product will be allocated based on current inventory and utilization.

Given coagulation testing's critical role in many areas of medicine and surgery, Regional Pathology Services is implementing several supply conservation measures, and asking clients to conserve tubes including:

- Using a “no additive” tube as a waste tube (instead of a light blue tube) when collecting other blood specimens.
- Restricting light blue tubes for coagulation testing rather than in a routine rainbow draw.
- If a patient is not on anticoagulants or is not going to surgery:
 - Reconsider the need for routine coagulation testing or consider extending the interval between daily coagulation testing orders.
- If a patient is undergoing treatment with direct oral anti-Xa anticoagulants, such as apixaban or rivaroxaban:
 - Consider not ordering PT and APTT (they are usually normal in these patients and not helpful in anticoagulant management).

There is also a shortage in Surepath™ Vials production used for cervical cancer screening and some clients may notice a reduced allocation until normal levels are restored

We apologize for these circumstances and Thank You for your cooperation as we navigate this shortage.

If you have any questions or issues please contact client services at 402-559-6420 and ask to speak with one of the client coordinators.