

# Coagulation Testing Update

**EFFECTIVE MAY 28, 2021**

## **SODIUM CITRATE “LIGHT BLUE TOP” VACUTAINER TUBE SHORTAGE**

The sodium citrate “Light Blue Top” Vacutainer tubes are in limited supply due to a nationwide shortage of sodium citrate anticoagulant. All coagulation tests are collected in these tubes and current usage exceeds expected supply. As with other healthcare systems and laboratories across the country, the vendor is limiting allocation of these tube types to Froedtert Health and this is expected to continue into the fall. We will monitor our tube supply daily and in continued daily discussion with supply chain to advocate for appropriate allocation.

To address this shortage, WDL and Froedtert Health Phlebotomy services have implemented the following changes immediately:

- Netting test requests together to optimize collection in fewer tubes
- Limit allocation of 1.8ml sodium citrate tubes for difficult phlebotomies
- Cease collecting Light Blue Tops as waste or “extra” tubes

We strongly encourage the following conservation measures to help reduce the overall usage of the Light Blue Top tubes across our health system, to ensure that coagulation testing remains available for patients with critical testing needs:

### **Ordering physicians/APPs:**

- Limit standing orders for coagulation tests such as DIC panels, daily INRs, or specialty coagulation tests to those patients with critical derangements in hemostasis.

### **Nursing & Phlebotomy:**

- Do not collect extra light blue top tubes beyond what is necessary for current testing.
- Do not use light blue top tubes for waste; use a clear top, red stopper (NO additive) tube instead.
- Do not draw light blue top tubes as part of “rainbow draw”

Hospital and physician leaders are working together to assist in new policies related to this issue. Additional conservation measure suggestions are welcome.

### **For questions or additional information, please contact:**

- Alexandra Harrington, MD, MT(ASCP) Medical Director, Phlebotomy Services, Hematology and Coagulation, 414.805.6703, aharrington@mcw.edu
- Ashley Cunningham, MD, Associate Medical Director, Coagulation, 414.805.6943, acunningham@mcw.edu
- Chuck Schur, Manager, Hematology, Coagulation and Flow Cytometry, 414.805.5159, CSchur@wisconsindiagnostic.com
- James Price, Manager, FMLH Phlebotomy Services, 414.805.7712, james.price@froedtert.com

