

To: SHC, LPCH, and VC Medical Staff

From: Stanford Health Care Clinical Laboratories

Subject: Nationwide Citrate (Light Blue) Blood Tube Shortage

Date: June 9, 2021

There is a nationwide shortage of citrate blood tubes used for Coagulation testing (PT/INR, PTT, fibrinogen, D-dimer, TEG, and other special coagulation tests); the shortage is expected through Q4 of 2021. In response to the shortage, the laboratory recommends the following measures to conserve inventory:

Ordering Providers

- Evaluate clinical necessity of all coagulation testing orders.
- For low risk procedures in the absence of a bleeding history, pre-operative coagulation testing is generally not necessary.
- Where possible:
 - Eliminate standing coagulation testing orders.
 - Consider using point-of-care testing.
 - Consider using anticoagulants that do not require monitoring, such as direct oral anticoagulants (e.g., apixaban, rivaroxaban, dabigatran) or low molecular weight heparin (LMWH).

Nursing and Phlebotomy

- Reserve the use of smaller volume 1.8mL blue top tubes for patient populations that cannot be drawn with larger volume 2.7ml blue top tubes.
- Eliminate extra blue top collection for rainbow draw.
- Stop the use of blue top tubes as discard/waste tubes.

Stanford Clinical Laboratories will communicate further updates when available. If you have any questions, please contact me directly or Lab Quality Management at DL-LabQuality@stanfordhealthcare.org.

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