

Using Labs Wisely – Global Blood Tube/ Lab Resources Shortage

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To: All Ordering Practitioners

Re: Using Labs Wisely – During Global Blood Tube/ Lab Resources Shortage

From: Dr. Amin Kabani, Provincial Medical Specialty Lead, Laboratory Medicine
Dr. AbdulRazaq Sokoro, Executive Director, Provincial Laboratory Operations,
Diagnostic Services
Dr. Eric Bohm, Clinical Sponsor, Choosing Wisely Manitoba
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Dear Colleagues,

COVID-19 has put an extraordinary strain on laboratory medicine in Canada due to critical shortages in blood tubes, devices and lab staffing. The current shortages are forcing many health care institutions to take immediate action to conserve tubes and supplies.

We want you to know that Shared Health Diagnostic Services is managing its resources effectively and is closely monitoring supply. While **Manitoba is not experiencing any of the shortages seen at a national level**, it is important for providers to continue to use best practices in management of laboratory resources and supplies.

Physicians, nurses and other providers are key partners with the laboratory in preserving supplies for testing where they are needed most.

Before ordering tests, please consider:

- How and if this test result will change patient management.
- Strategies to minimize blood collections.
- Avoiding test or request duplications, e.g., check EMR or eChart for previous results.
- Talking to your local lab professionals about how you can help conserve tubes.

To address the need to conserve tubes and critical laboratory resources, Choosing Wisely Canada, the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists and the Canadian Association of Medical Biochemists have assembled two sets of relevant Choosing Wisely Canada recommendations—for hospitals and primary care settings.

References/Resources:

[Using Labs Wisely During Global Blood Tube and Other Resource Shortages - Choosing Wisely Canada](#)