

March 10, 2025

CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY

Rural Laboratory Collection Tube Change

Date effective: April 7, 2025

Background Information: A complete switch from serum separator tubes (SST) to plasma separator tubes (PST) for rural laboratories will take place on April 7, 2025. Four rural laboratories (The Pas, Boundary Trails, Stonewall, and Souris) participated in a trial of the change prior to transitioning other laboratories.

In addition to the above changes, the following drug preferred sample types will switch from serum no gel to plasma no gel; acetaminophen, salicylates, phenytoin, phenobarbital, tobramycin, carbamazepine, valproic acid and gentamicin.

Laboratories will need to increase inventory of light green (BD367962) and dark green (BD367884) collection tubes prior to Apr 7, 2025.

The LIS changes are expected to be performed April 7, 2025 between 1300-1500. No registration downtime is expected, however, barcode label updates could happen during the expected LIS change window.

Previously acceptable specimen types will remain acceptable moving forward, only the preferred specimen type will change. Please refer to specific test SOP for all acceptable sample types.

Summary of Changes:

- Specified Biochemistry tests performed within Shared Health will change from SST to PST collections in Delphic
- The registration process will generate L6, L8, L9 tube type labels for these tests instead of GD depending on the site referral pattern
- Specified Biochemistry tests performed within Shared Health will change from Serum No Gel to Plasma No Gel collections in Delphic
- The registration process will generate DG, D6, D8, D9 tube type labels for these tests instead of RD depending on the site referral pattern
- Referral laboratories receiving specimens may notice a change in aliquot tube labels

Patient Impact:

- Reduction in tubes collected during phlebotomy

System Improvements:

- Improved pre-analytic work flow for referred out samples
- Same process for in-house and referred out testing

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