

<b>Date:</b>	July 16, 2021
<b>To:</b>	MB ACS Network Steering Commit
<b>From:</b>	Dr. John Ducas, Dr. Lorraine Avery, and Dr. Ping Sun
<b>cc:</b>	Dr. Amin Kabani, Petr Kresta, Cathy McMahon
<b>Re:</b>	<b>Coagulation Testing and Sodium Citrate Tube supply shortage</b>

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We would like to bring to your attention an urgent problem related to the routine ordering of coagulation profiles (aPTT, INR) for patients presenting with a suspect or confirmed acute coronary syndrome (ACS) including ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI), Non-ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (NSTEMI) and Unstable Angina in the province of Manitoba.

Background:

3.2% buffered sodium citrate tube (blue top tube) is used for coagulation testing such as PT/INR, and aPTT. Diagnostic Services blood collection tube vendor, Becton Dickson (BD), is experiencing an unprecedented demand for the plastic sodium citrate tube due to surges in COVID-19 infection rates, COVID-19 vaccine and treatment development, and alternative vendor supply challenges. BD is accelerating their production of these tubes to try to meet the demand globally.

BD is working hard to support the Shared Health Labs by bringing inventory in from the UK and the US. However, we are expecting limited supplies until at least mid-September when the US can provide us with their first shipment. Their estimated timeline until full recovery is December 2021.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to eliminate unnecessary coagulation testing to make sure that supplies will be available for patients that do require these essential tests.

The MB ACS Network does not recommend *initial* routine aPTT, INR testing in patients presenting with an ACS. This testing should be limited to patients with a clinical indication:

- On warfarin
- On unfractionated IV heparin infusion
- Unexplained bleeding

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MB ACS Network

- As per clinician discretion

We ask that you forward this communication to all appropriate individuals within your health region. If any of your ACS protocols recommend routine coagulation testing, please ensure these orders are modified appropriately.

Sincerely,

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