



To: VCU Health Providers

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Subject: EDTA Collection Tubes

The FDA and manufacturers of Blood Collection Tubes have issued nationwide notifications regarding interruptions in the supply of several blood collection vacutainers. All vacutainer products are currently on allocation. At VCUHS, we are currently experiencing low inventory of Purple top tubes. **The most common tests that are ordered in Purple top tubes are CBC and CBC with diff. This is an ongoing supply chain issue. There are no substitute blood collection tubes for tests that must be collected in EDTA purple top tubes.**

Please consider the following conservation strategies recommended by the FDA to minimize blood collection tube use:

- Only order tests considered medically necessary.
- Remove duplicate test orders to avoid unnecessary draws.
- Avoid whenever possible unnecessary collection of tubes, such as “rainbow” tube arrays of extra tubes and standing orders.
- Extend time intervals between tests whenever possible.
- Reduce tests at routine wellness visits and allergy testing only to those that target specific disease states or where it will change patient treatment.
- Consider add-on testing if previously collected specimens are available.

Your support in helping to manage this critical supply chain issue is appreciated.

The following EDTA purple top tubes are approved for use, notice one is slightly a darker shade of purple. The difference in these tubes is the volume requirement (3.0 mL vs. 4.0 mL).



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