



To: VCU Health Physicians, Housestaff and Nurses

From: Grace R. Williams, Ph.D.  
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Associate Director, Clinical Chemistry

Lorin Bachmann, PhD  
Co-Director, Clinical Chemistry

Susan D. Roseff, M.D.  
Chair, Department of Pathology

Date: August 21st, 2023

Re: **Change of venous lead testing tube type and delay in all blood metals testing (copper, zinc, and lead)**

Dear Colleagues,

Due to instrumental issues, there will be an unavoidable delay in patient testing for blood copper, zinc, and lead. This testing is currently being sent to LabCorp until the in-house testing can resume. The estimated turnaround time for send out testing is 14 days.

The acceptable tube type for in-house venous blood lead analysis includes a lavender top EDTA, however LabCorp will not accept this tube for venous lead analysis. To avoid potential specimen recollections in the future, the laboratory is changing the collection tube for VENOUS lead samples.

- VENOUS lead samples need to be collected in a Royal blue (K2EDTA) or Tan (K2EDTA) top tube.
- CAPILLARY lead samples are still accepted in lavender microtainers.

All other test parameters will remain the same including reference interval and interpretive comments.

Please contact Grace Williams at [grace.r.williams@vcuhealth.org](mailto:grace.r.williams@vcuhealth.org) with any questions or concerns.

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