

Memo

To: CVPH All Exchange and All Providers

From: Lisa A. Mark, MD - VPMA/CMO, Regional Physician Leader, UVM Medical Group
Eric Gorman, MD - Medical Director, Laboratory

Re: Laboratory Testing Impacted by Blood Collection Tube Supply Shortages

Date: February 4, 2022

What can you do as medical provider to help during the laboratory supply shortages?

The FDA has made the following recommendations, which we endorse:

- Only perform blood draws considered medically necessary
- Remove duplicate test orders to avoid unnecessary blood draws
- Avoid testing too frequently or 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, when available and appropriate, rather than performing another blood draw using a new collection tube

Why has the FDA made this recommendation?

Laboratories across the country continue to experience supply shortages needed for high-quality, timely testing. The most recent supply shortage is occurring with the blood collection tubes. This memo is to notify you of particular laboratory supply shortages we are experiencing in the UVMHN clinical laboratories. Please understand we are working diligently to mitigate the impacts of the supply shortages, and our supply chain colleagues continue to search for approved supply alternatives.

What are the supply shortages we are experiencing across the UVMNH laboratories?

At this time, the most critical supply shortages include:

1. Red blood cell availability
 - a. Dr. Sarah Harm, Director of Transfusion Services previously communicated information and mitigation steps regarding the national blood shortage (e-mail communication on Thursday, January 20, 2022).
2. Reagents for various automated instruments
3. Blood collection tubes
 - a. The FDA communicated ([link](#)) that **all** blood collection tubes are now on the Medical Device Shortage List

We appreciate your support as we remain mindful about focusing our resources for those patients who have a medically important need for laboratory testing.