



**To: All Regional Medical Laboratory, Inc. (RML) Clients**

**From: Regional Medical Laboratory, Inc.**

**Sonja Matthews, Director of Clinical Operations**

**Dr. Cindi Starkey, Medical Director**

**Date: May 28, 2021**

**Subject: National Shortage Blue Top Sodium Citrate Blood Collection Tubes**

There is a **severe nationwide shortage** of **blue sodium citrate blood collection tubes** used for coagulation laboratory testing such as prothrombin time (PT), activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT), D-Dimer and Fibrinogen. There is not an alternative tube available for this testing.

Due to the critical role coagulation testing has in the care of our patients, Regional Medical Laboratory and all of our partners need to implement **conservation measures** immediately.

Conservation suggestions:

- Use an alternative no additive tube for waste tubes when collection blood specimens
- Discontinue drawing extra blue top tubes for “just in case” add on orders
- If a patient is not on anticoagulant therapy or does not have upcoming surgery, consider extending the interval between routine coagulation test monitoring
- If a patient is currently prescribed direct oral anti-Xa anticoagulants such as Pradaxa®, Xarelto® and Apixaban®, consider not ordering routine coagulation testing including PT and aPTT. This type of testing is not recommended for patient monitoring.
- Consider delaying testing that requires large numbers of blue tops tubes
  - Hypercoagulation Anticoagulant Analyzer
  - Lupus Anticoagulant Analyzer
- If you have unused or excess stock of these tubes in your office, please contact RML client services or your RML sales rep and we will pick them up to resource to our other areas of critical need

We will advise further updates on RMLOnline.com as we get information from our suppliers.

We appreciate your partnership in this effort. If you have questions regarding the material in this document, please contact your RML Sales Representative.