

# News

## Clinical Laboratory Test Update

### Sodium Citrate Blood Specimen Collection Tube Shortage

The University of Colorado Hospital is experiencing a shortage of sodium citrate blood collection (blue top) tubes. Our Supply Chain is working diligently with vendors to obtain product, but back orders of supplies are expected to continue into the Fall of 2021.

**Action** is needed now to decrease unnecessary usage of sodium citrate blue top tubes. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) posted the following information with recommendations to healthcare workers during supply challenges.

#### Recommendations:

- Do not include sodium citrate, blue top tubes, in routine collection of a variety of specimens at the time of other blood sampling or IV insertion.
- Do not use sodium citrate blue top tubes unless medically necessary.
- Do not use sodium citrate blue top tubes as discard tubes; consider clear top or red stopper (no additive) tubes as an alternative.
- Limit allocation of 1.8 mL sodium citrate blue top tubes for difficult blood collections.

The FDA recommends health care and laboratory facilities develop and implement the above strategies to minimize the use of these tubes and maintain the quality and safety of care for patients for whom such testing is medically necessary.

Please call Mary Ellen Boyle, at 720-848-7067 if you have any questions or visit our test directory at <https://www.testmenu.com/universityhospital> for additional information.

Issued: June 15, 2021