

DATE:	2021 November 15
TO:	Physicians, Nursing, Laboratory Staff at Medicine Hat Regional Hospital and Area Sites, and Brooks Health Center
FROM:	Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Transfusion Medicine Department
RE:	Tube Change for Collection of CORD Blood: Removal of RED Top Tube and Size Change of EDTA Tube from 7 ml to 4 ml

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Effective November 23, 2021, the Transfusion Medicine Department for the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital, Area Sites and Brooks Health Center are changing the requirements for which tubes are collected for testing on CORD blood samples. The RED Top tube will no longer be collected and the EDTA tube collected will be changing from a 7 ml PINK EDTA to a 4 ml LAVENDER EDTA.
- The Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Transfusion Department will continue to offer Blood Group and Direct Antigen Testing (DAT) on CORD blood sample up to 7 days post delivery.

Background

- Historically, the RED top tube for CORD blood samples has been collected and stored in the Laboratory in case additional testing for congenital infections was needed. For example, TORCH testing panel. It has been identified by Public Health (ProvLab) that the TORCH testing panel is of limited value and physicians should contact a microbiologist/virologist on call when testing is required.
- The removal of the RED top tube, and change to a 4 mL LAVENDER top EDTA tube will standardize our site with the rest of the province.

How this will impact you

- When collecting CORD blood samples only collect a 4 ml LAVENDER top EDTA Tube.
- Continue to request ABORH and DAT testing on neonate when required.
- If Congenital Infections are suspected, request a blood sample for the specific infection in question.

Action Required

- When collecting a CORD blood sample only collect 4 ml LAVENDER top EDTA tube.

Questions/Concerns

- Bailey Blake, Technologist II - South Zone Transfusion Safety Officer, Bailey.Blake@aplabs.ca
- Karen Blasetti Technologist II Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Transfusion Medicine and Hematology, Karen.Blasetti@aplabs.ca

This Bulletin has been read and approved by

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