

<b>DATE:</b>	2021 June 14
<b>TO:</b>	FSH, RED, NEC, EEHC, DVH, LEH, STO, SPK – Physicians, Nurses, Laboratory Directors, and Managers
<b>FROM:</b>	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Tube shortage necessitates rationing for PTT based Heparin monitoring at smaller Edmonton zone sites</b>

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### Key Message

- Collect PTTs for patients receiving unfractionated heparin (UFH) in 4.5mL GLASS sodium citrate tubes at the following sites **FSH, RED, NEC, EEHC, DVH, LEH, STO, & SPK**.
- Effective June 28<sup>th</sup>, collect all other coagulation tests (including PTT for purposes other than UFH monitoring) into PLASTIC sodium citrate tubes.

### Background

- Our blood collection tube manufacturer (BD) has discontinued production of 4.5mL BD369714 Glass Citrate Tubes.
- Glass sodium citrate tubes are essential for PTT-based monitoring of UFH in the Edmonton Zone. Anti-Xa based heparin monitoring can be performed using glass or plastic tubes.
- Glass citrate tubes are being conserved for UFH monitoring at sites (listed above) without on-site access to the Anti-Xa Heparin Level.

### Action Required

- Obtain Glass 4.5 mL sodium citrate (Blue Top) tubes for patients receiving unfractionated heparin for PTT monitoring from your local lab on an as needed basis (ie. only for individual patients as the need arises).
- Use Plastic for PTT collections for all non-heparin related indications (eg. coagulopathy, hemophilia, etc).
- Provincially, warehouses will have BD363083 Plastic 2.7mL citrate tubes available. BD363080 Plastic 1.8 mL citrate tubes will also be available but should only be used for infants. If you do not have either of the Plastic citrate tubes on your site, please contact your local Site Services rep for arrangements.

**Effective**      June 28, 2021

### Inquiries and feedback may be directed to

- General laboratory questions: Dr. E. Turley: [Elona.Turley@aplabs.ca](mailto:Elona.Turley@aplabs.ca)

### This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by

- Artur Szkotak, MD FRCPC, Hematopathology Section Chief, North Sector, APL