

DATE:	22 June 2026
TO:	Calgary Zone: Healthcare Professionals and Providers and Laboratory Staff performing/receiving neonatal micro collections
FROM:	Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Micro Collections: Appropriate Storage and Handling of Expired Tubes

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Key Message

- Several instances of **expired** amber micro collection SST/PST (Becton Dickinson (BD) Serum Separator Tube / Plasma Separator Tube; product reference number 365978/365987) have been received at different APL clinical labs within Calgary zone.
 - Expired tubes are not to be used for patient sample collection; all expired tubes should be appropriately disposed of.

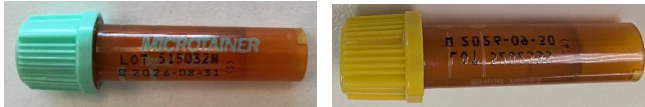


Figure 1. Example collection tubes

Background

- Use of sample collection tubes beyond the manufacturer's expiry can compromise product performance. It results in issues such as inadequate serum/plasma separation during centrifugation, which can significantly affect specimen integrity and test results. The inaccurate patient test results could impact clinical decision-making and patient care.

Action Required

- Immediately review all stock of micro collection tubes that you and your clinical colleagues use. The expiry date can be found on the product packaging, as well as on each individual tube (refer to Appendix 1 and 2).
- Verify storage conditions for all collection tubes to ensure the tubes are stored at conditions in compliance with manufacturer recommendations (4°C to 25°C).
 - Reminder: Vehicle storage is not appropriate as temperatures can fluctuate significantly outside of manufacturer's recommendations.
- Discard any expired and/or inappropriately stored collection tubes from current stock if identified.
- Do not use expired and/or inappropriately stored collection tubes for patient collection.
 - Always check expiry date prior to collection of any patient specimen.
- If a specimen has been collected in an expired and/or inappropriately stored collection tubes, notify the appropriate laboratory area or designate. Re-collect specimen if clinically indicated.

Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

- Dr. Allison Venner, Clinical Biochemistry Section Chief, South Sector, APL
- Dr. Kate O'Connor, Medical Director, South Sector, APL



Appendix 1. Example of expiry date on product package for Amber micro collection PST.



Appendix 2. Example of expiry date on individual amber micro collection PST/SST tubes.

Amber Micro PST Amber Micro SST Expiry date

