

DATE:	2022 February 16
TO:	All Healthcare Providers
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) & DynaLIFE Medical Labs (DL)
RE:	Blood Tube Shortage: K2 EDTA (Lavender Top) Affecting CBC, Hemoglobin A1C and Type and Screen Availability

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Key Messages

- Supply levels of blood collection tubes are constrained globally due to ongoing shortages of medical-grade plastics
- Blood collection tubes used across Alberta for CBC, Hemoglobin A1C, and Type and Screen are in critically low supply and utilization controls are now necessary on a temporary basis
- Utilization within Acute Care settings and for acute clinical management are being prioritized

Background

- The product supplier of blood tubes has indicated on-going product shortages of several tube types, one of which is the K2 EDTA tube which is used for CBC, Hemoglobin A1C and Type and Screen
- AHS and DynaLIFE currently use approximately 500,000 of these tubes per month (combined total)
- Stocks of this tube are at critical levels; work is underway with vendors to secure urgent shipments as soon as possible
- Alternate tube sizes are available, but numbers will not support continued usage at current rates

How this will impact you

- Tubes may not be readily available to collect testing for CBC, CBCD, Hgb A1C, Type & Screen and a few other tests collected in this tube type.
- Patients may be asked to return for these collections at a later date
- Further communication will follow as soon as supplies stabilize

Action Required

- Only order testing that is required for **acute** patient management at this time.
- Routine testing that is for health monitoring, acquiring pre-procedural baselines or without high pretest probability for abnormalities should be deferred until the shortage resolves.
- Where possible and clinically acceptable, please encourage your patients to postpone their lab visit for these tests until a later date when supplies stabilize.

Effective

- February 16, 2022

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to

- DynaLIFE Client Relations at client.relations@dynamylife.ca or 780-451-3702 ext. 8183
- Alberta Precision Laboratories' Lab Information Center at 1-855-570-3600

Approved by

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