

DATE:	REVISED 2 July 2026
TO:	Calgary Zone, Edmonton Zone
FROM:	Hematopathology, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Change to Instrument and Collection Container for ESR Testing - REVISED 2 JULY 2026

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Effective 23 June 2026, ESR testing is being transitioned from the Excyte 20 platform to the Mix-Rate X20 platform at nine sites in Calgary and Edmonton Zones (Table 1) and will require utilization of a new collection container.

Table 1.

Alberta Children's Hospital	Rockyview General Hospital
Diagnostic and Scientific Centre Laboratory	Royal Alexandra Hospital
Edmonton Base Laboratory	South Health Campus
Foothills Medical Centre	University of Alberta Hospital
Peter Lougheed Centre	

Background

- In November 2025, Inter Medico notified APL that due to circumstances beyond the manufacturer's control the production of their **plastic ESR vacuum tubes** BLACK-CITRATE (EXCYTE) has been discontinued, and a changeover must be made to their **glass ESR vacuum tubes** BLACK-CITRATE (MONOSED).
- Plastic and glass tubes are not interchangeable and require analysis on compatible instruments.

How this will impact you

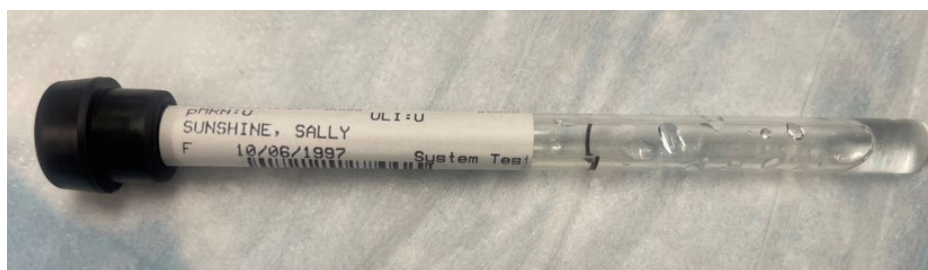
- No changes to ordering in Connect Care.
- Reference intervals will not change.
- This change will involve a new collection container, BLACK-CITRATE (MONOSED) **glass** tube.
- The provisional stability of ESR specimens has been revised based on current validation data:
 - Room temperature (18–25°C): 12 hours
 - Refrigerated (2–8°C): 16 hours
- Specimens exceeding these time limits may demonstrate reduced result reliability and may be subject to cancellation.
- Collection instructions displayed in Connect Care and associated specimen collection references on the APL test directory will be updated to reflect the change.

Updated Collection Container		
Oracle	Description	Supplier #
420566	TUBE MONOSED ESR HIGH ALTITUDE VACUUM GLASS ESR TUBES	Inter Medico PRD-PRV11V-H12



Action Required

- Ensure all staff involved in ordering and specimen collection are informed of the updated collection requirements.
- Refer to collection information in Connect Care or the Alberta Precision Labs Test Directory ([Alberta Precision Laboratories | Lab Services](#))
- Ensure correct labelling of tube:
 - Place label directly under the lid
 - Name at the top
 - Do not flag the label
 - Barcode straight and not wrinkled



Effective June 23, 2026

Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

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