



**Date:** November 16, 2020  
**To:** Calgary Zone: Labour & Delivery Patient Care Units, Post-Partum Patient Care Units, Neonatal Intensive Care Units, and Midwives  
**From:** Transfusion Medicine (TM), South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)  
**Re:** Collection of Cord Blood Samples in a 6 mL EDTA Container

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**Key Message:**

- Effective **November 26, 2020**, cord blood samples collected for TM - Cord (Newborn) Investigation must be collected in 6 mL EDTA (lavender-top) containers.

**Background:**

- To align with the provincial practice for analyzing cord blood, neonates born to mothers who have red blood cell antibodies will be subject to additional testing not previously performed on the cord blood samples. Plain (red-top) containers cause clotting of the cells, which interferes with the measurement.

**How this will impact you:**

- SCM will be updated on November 26, 2020 to instruct clinical staff to use a 6 mL EDTA container for cord blood.
- The default container in EPIC is 6 mL EDTA.
- In the event that the newborn requires a TORCH screen (for congenital infections), a peripheral blood sample also will be required.

**Questions/ Concerns:**

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**Approved by:**

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