

<b>DATE:</b>	9 January 2023
<b>TO:</b>	Connect Care Live Sites All Zones: Physicians, Nurses, Healthcare Practitioners and Lab Staff
<b>FROM:</b>	DynaLIFE Medical Labs & Alberta Precision Laboratories
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Container Updates in EPIC</b>

---

**PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE**

---

**Key Message**

- Effective January 9, 2023, blood collection containers (aka tubes) that contain the same anticoagulant or preservative but for a different tube size will be removed from the drop-down menus for specimen collection steps on general laboratory tests.
- Build for tests collected for specialty laboratory areas will not be affected.

**Background**

- Original Connect Care build included multiple specimen container/tube types and sizes for each test/ analyte. This impacted how collectors saw collection requirements and the way containers and tubes could be shared for multiple tests. Test sharing and the ability to add-on tests to previously collected samples were also impacted by the containers listed for each test. We have seen that the options for multiple containers have caused patient safety issues due to the collection of unnecessary containers and higher volume phlebotomies. It also limited the availability for prescribers to add-on tests.

**How this will impact you**

- Acceptable container types will be listed by tube top colour/anticoagulant. Tube size will not be listed.
- The container type shown at collection is appropriate for the patient age.
- Alternate container sizes, pediatric and micro collection containers, will be removed but these container types are acceptable if appropriate for the volume needed to complete testing. Please refer to the APL Test Directory for additional information at: [Alberta Precision Laboratories | Lab Services \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](https://albertahealthservices.ca)
- Laboratory tests that previously defaulted to micro collection containers (e.g. neonatal bilirubin) will now default to the acceptable container of the appropriate anticoagulant (e.g. Mint Lihep PST or Gold SST).
- For samples collected prior to the change, add-on functionality may still be impacted.

**Action Required**

- Choice of container size should be based on collection method and patient's clinical presentation.

**Effective January 9, 2023**

**Questions/Concerns**

- Pam Flegg, Connect Care Laboratory Information Specialist, [Pam.Flegg@aplabs.ca](mailto:Pam.Flegg@aplabs.ca)

**Approved by**

- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara – Interim Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, Alberta Precision Laboratories
- Dr. Erene Farag – Medical Director DynaLife Medical Labs