

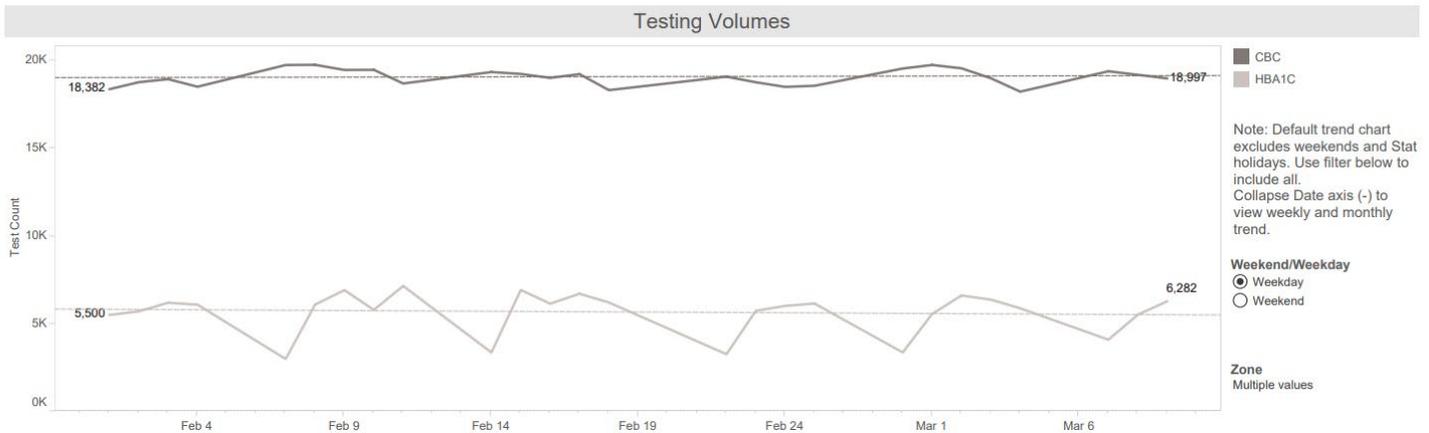
<b>DATE:</b>	2022 March 14
<b>TO:</b>	All Healthcare Providers
<b>FROM:</b>	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) & DynaLIFE Medical Labs (DL)
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Update on EDTA Blood Tube Shortage</b>

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

**Key Message**

The ongoing global shortage of medical-grade plastics is expected to constrain supplies of blood collection tubes and other commonly used lab products for the foreseeable future.

Alberta Health Services, Alberta Precision Laboratories and DynaLIFE Medical Labs are working with vendors to stabilize supplies of all tube types, but deliveries of K2 EDTA tubes used for CBC, Hemoglobin A1C and Type and Screen blood collections continue to be limited due to a [national shortage](#) reported by Becton Dickinson Canada Inc. APL and DynaLIFE inventories of EDTA tubes are very tight in relation to our current daily testing volumes, which have not declined in recent weeks:



With this uncertainty of supply, we continue to request physician assistance in limiting **non-essential** lab testing when possible to conserve supplies and ensure testing continues to be available for all patients who require it.

There are no restrictions to lab collections in place and physicians should resume all testing necessary for patient health management (acute and preventative). As always, we ask practitioners to think critically about the value of the lab investigations they are ordering. If possible, try to co-ordinate with other health care providers involved in your patient’s care to minimize duplicate draws.

Choosing Wisely Canada has issued specific recommendations for primary care and hospital situations that may be helpful in assessing appropriateness of testing ([link below](#)).



We continue to investigate alternate sources of tube supplies, evaluate provincial inventories to provide equitable distribution, and we are taking steps to minimize the number of tubes collected whenever possible. We appreciate the ongoing support and assistance of Alberta physicians and patients, and will provide updated information as soon as possible.

### **Action Required**

- Physicians should resume or continue to order **necessary** testing for their patients.
- Review [Choosing Wisely Canada's recommendations](#) for appropriate primary care and hospital lab testing and ensure test ordering aligns with these guidelines.

### **Background**

- March 11, 2022 Health Canada advisory: [Medical device shortage: BD Vacutainer Tubes](#)
- Feb. 16, 2022 Lab Bulletin: [Blood Tube Shortage: K2 EDTA \(Lavender Top\) Affecting CBC, Hemoglobin A1C and Type and Screen Availability](#)

### **Inquiries and feedback may be directed to**

- *DynaLIFE* Client Relations at [client.relations@dynalife.ca](mailto:client.relations@dynalife.ca) or 780-451-3702 ext. 8183
- Alberta Precision Laboratories' Lab Information Center at 1-855-570-3600

### **Approved by**

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