
Date: August 30, 2019
To: All Zones
From: Alberta Public Laboratories (APL)
Re: Product replacement and discontinuation of whole blood antimony for trace elements testing

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Key Messages:

- Due to abrupt unavailability, Covidien Royal Blue (EDTA) Vacutainer tubes will be replaced with Greiner Bio-One Royal Blue (Sodium Heparin) tubes for whole blood trace elements testing in the province. This is effective immediately.
- Also effective immediately, whole blood antimony (WBSB) will no longer be available and will not be included in the Blood Trace Elements Panel (BTREL). Antimony will continue to be available in urine.

Why this is important:

- The University of Alberta Hospital Toxicology/Trace Elements Laboratory performs trace elements testing for the province.
- The replacement Greiner tube is not suitable for blood antimony testing due to a known contamination in the tube from the manufacturing process. This test represents less than 0.05% of all elements tested in whole blood and will affect approximately 230 requests annually.
- If antimony testing is required, it must be requested as a 24 hour urine antimony.

Action Required:

- Order Greiner Bio-One Royal Blue (Sodium Heparin) vacutainer tubes for all whole blood trace elements testing.
- Continue to use BD Royal Blue (No Additive) vacutainer tubes for all serum trace elements testing.

Additional information regarding sample requirements and other testing-related matters:

- Alberta Health Services Edmonton Zone Guide to Laboratory Services which can be accessed at <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/lab/Page3217.aspx>
- Edmonton Client Response: 780-407-7484

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Penny Colbourne: 780-407-4729
- Dr. Dylan Thomas: 780-717-6678

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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