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Blood Collection Supply Shortages

Over the past few months, we have been impacted by global supply chain issues. We know the important role that blood collection products play in ensuring accurate diagnostic test results for our patients.

We have reached a critical supply level for **PST (plasma separator) tubes**. PST tubes are the preferred tube for Troponin testing. Unless Troponin testing is requested an alternative tube must be used for chemistry testing. Alternative tubes are SST (serum separator) or Lithium Heparin no-gel. Please be aware that the alternative tubes must clot and/or be processed manually before testing can occur. This will add an additional 30-45 minutes to the testing time.

Please also note the following:

- Each SST is typically enough for 3-4 routine chemistry/serology tests.
- Troponin, BHB and Lactate tests cannot be collected in SST. The **ONLY** alternative is a lithium heparin no-gel tube.
- Review specimen requirements for test volumes, ensuring enough is sent for all testing to be completed. Test directory can be found online at www.thepathologycenter.org
- Refrain from drawing extra tubes

We are diligently ordering as we can from multiple vendors to try to keep up with the demand.

If you have any questions or issues please contact pathology client services at 402-354-4541.



PST tube



SST tubes



Lithium Heparin no-gel