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## Nationwide Shortage: Light Blue Sodium Citrate Tubes

There is a severe **nationwide** shortage of light blue sodium citrate blood collection tubes used for coagulation tests such as prothrombin time (PT), activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT), fibrinogen, and D-dimer.



Currently, no other substitute tube is readily available for coagulation testing and this shortage is expected to last through summer 2021. Distribution of this product will be allocated based on current inventory and utilization.

Coagulation testing is critical in many areas of our health system. Methodist Pathology is asking providers to conserve tubes by following these suggested guidelines:

- Use a “no additive” tube as a waste tube instead of a light blue tube when collecting other blood specimens
- Do not utilize a light blue tube when performing a routine rainbow draw
- If a patient is not on anticoagulants or is not going to surgery, reconsider the need for routine coagulation testing or consider extending the interval between orders
- If a patient is undergoing treatment with direct oral anti-Xa anticoagulants, such as Apixaban or Rivaroxaban, consider not ordering PT and aPTT (they are usually normal in these patients)

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