

## CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF BLUE-TOP BLOOD COLLECTION TUBES

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There is a critical national shortage of 1.8 and 2.7 mL blue-top tubes used to collect blood for **PT/INR, PTT, fibrinogen, D-dimer and other coagulation studies**. This situation is likely to last 3-4 months and is attributed to a nationwide shortage of plastic materials, a major product recall and an increased demand for D-dimer and other coagulation testing in patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 illness.

We currently have only a 14 day supply of blue top tubes with no guarantee of future shipments or delivery dates. This shortage affects all ambulatory blood draws (patient services centers, provider offices etc.) and all emergency department and hospital testing across the UR Medicine enterprise. We will be managing this situation through the channels listed below, moving supplies around the system to locations of greatest need.

For Outreach/Outpatient Clients – continue to order on the lab website

For Ambulatory Locations that receive their supply from a vendor – contact Katie Harris via email for critical need ([Kathryn\\_Harris@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:Kathryn_Harris@urmc.rochester.edu))

For Inpatient SMH – contact Hospital Stores

For UR Affiliates – continue to work through your existing Supply Chain

### What you need to do:

- **Immediately stop drawing all "hold" tubes-** only draw a tube when actual testing has been ordered
- **Reevaluate the clinical necessity** of all PT/INR orders to ensure only vital tests are ordered
- **Reduce the frequency and/or extend the timing** of standing PT/INR orders, especially for stable patients on long term Coumadin
- **Consider alternatives to heparin and coumadin**
- **Do not use blue top tubes for waste/prime tube when drawing coagulation testing**, if currently using a blue top for this purpose. Observe order of draw guidelines or use a small red top or SST tube for the waste/prime tube.
- **Reduce the number of repeat TEG/HTEG/PLTMP testing orders unless clinically indicated**, particularly if the previous testing was normal

Stay tuned for additional guidance within the coming days. If you have any additional questions, please reach out to one of the people listed below.

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