

To: UCM Medical Staff, House staff, Nursing Staff, Patient Care Centers, and Outpatient Clinics

From: Melissa S. Pessin, MD, PhD
Professor and Vice Chair, Clinical Pathology
Medical Director of Hyde Park Clinical Laboratories and Alternative Site Testing

Date: 3/28/2025

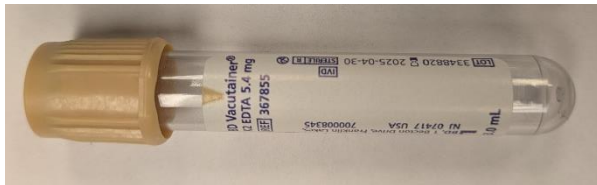
Subject: Blood Collection Tube Type Change for Lead Testing

Effective Date: 4/1/2025

Laboratory Section: Chemistry

Summary:

The tan-top blood collection tubes currently used for whole blood lead testing are being discontinued by the manufacturer and will be replaced by royal-blue K2 EDTA top tubes (with a purple stripe on label). The anticoagulant (K2 EDTA) and volume (3.0 mL) remain the same for both tube types, which are equivalent for lead testing.



Tan-top tube (current)



Royal blue-top tube (replacement)*

*Please note the **purple stripe** on the label is specific for the K2 EDTA tube. Royal blue-topped tube without the purple stripe on the label are not acceptable for this test and samples drawn in these tubes will be rejected.

The tan-top collection tubes will continue to be accepted by the Chemistry laboratory until the current supply is depleted.

Questions: If there are any questions regarding this change, please contact: Sarah Groboske, Clinical Chemistry Laboratory Manager, at sarah.groboske@uchicagomedicine.org.