



Blood tube shortage

Sent on behalf of NHS Hull CCG, NHS East Riding of Yorkshire CCG and Pathology HUTH

Situation

There is worldwide supply chain disruption affecting our blood tube supplies. The tubes affected are: the gold top SST II tubes, lavender EDTA K3 tubes and the pale blue top citrate tubes. These are the blood tubes most commonly used for adults. Some organisations nationally have already started to restrict testing to acute secondary care patients only; we are not taking this step at this time however the shortage may continue for several months. **We urgently need your assistance to help manage supplies of these tubes, please read and action this briefing.**

Actions for clinicians – please:

- Only request where clinically urgent or where it is timing dependent e.g. antenatal.
- For now – continue to recall and test chronic disease patients not seen during COVID.
- When taking specimens do not send an extra tube just in case.
- Do not duplicate tests that may already have been done in the hospital.
- If additional tests are required that could be added to a sample already received by the lab please email hyp-tr.ask.biochemistryhull@nhs.net or phone (01482 607755).
- Guidance on minimum retest intervals is available at:
https://www.rcpath.org/uploads/assets/253e8950-3721-4aa2-8ddd4bd94f73040e/g147_national-minimum_retesting_intervals_in_pathology.pdf
and pop-up reminders have been placed on ICE.

Actions for Practice Managers (stock management) – please:

- Review your local stocks – ensuring sufficient tubes for 3 – 7 days' maximum only.
- Do not over order blood tubes. Request small stock orders each week so the Pathology stores teams can manage stocks based on expiry dates & availability.
- The consumables order form has changed. **Your current stock level must be noted on the form before any blood tube stock can be issued.**
- Return any short dated blood tubes which will not be used before expiry. (send via ERS to: Pathology Laboratory, Hull Royal Infirmary)
- Email any queries to hyp-tr.customer.orders@nhs.net or phone 01482 607820.

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