

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum

To: Central Zone Healthcare Providers , Health Service Directors

From: Dr. Irene Sadek, Chief, Department of Pathology and laboratory Medicine, Central Zone
Trudy Handy, Manager, Laboratory Client and Support Centre, Central Zone

Date: May 11, 2023

Subject: Small Volume 2.0 ml lavender tubes for some Inpatient collections

Hospitalized patients frequently have considerable volumes of blood drawn (phlebotomy) for diagnostic testing during short periods of time. Phlebotomy can result in changes in hemoglobin and hematocrit levels that can contribute to anemia and have significant impact on a patient's outcome.

For Central Zone Inpatient units only, effective May 24th , 2023, the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine will be changing the lavender blood collection tube volume size from 4.0 ml to 2.0 ml for the following tests:

- Profile, auto diff
- Profile, no diff
- Reticulocyte count
- Ammonia
- Sirolimus
- Tacrolimus
- Cyclosporine

In the future, other testing will be added to the list as the initiative progresses.

The smaller volume lavender tubes are available as a stock item and can be ordered directly from stores, details below:

Tube description	Tube volume	BD#	SAP #
Lavender (edta)	2.0 ml	367841	118682

Note: The 4.0ml lavender tube will still be accepted for the tests listed above while units transition to the smaller collection tube. The 4.0 ml lavender tubes will still be required for other test requests such as ESR and A1c testing.



As a reference the Laboratory Test Catalogue will have a blood drop symbol beside the specimen type to indicate that this **inpatient test** can be collected in the smaller volume tubes.

https://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/system/files/sites/116/documents/laboratory-test-catalogue_8.pdf

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Trudy Handy at 902-473-6426.