

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum

To: Central Zone Healthcare Providers, Health Service Directors

From: Dr. Irene Sadek, Department Head, CZ Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
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Date: June 21, 2024

Subject: Expansion of the use of Small Volume Blood Collection Tubes in Central Zone

The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in Central Zone continues to reduce the volume of blood required for testing. Effective July 9, 2024, the use of small volume blood collection tubes will expand to include the following tests for collections in all locations. (Inpatients, Emergency Department (ED), Outpatients).

Lavender EDTA tube: Change from 4.0 ml to 2.0 ml (previously restricted to Inpatient and ED)

- Profile, auto diff
- Profile, no diff
- iPTH (Intact Parathyroid Hormone)
- Reticulocyte count
- Ammonia
- Sirolimus
- Tacrolimus
- Cyclosporin
- Hemoglobin A1c

Light blue Sodium Citrate tube: Change from 2.7 ml to 1.8 ml

- INR/PT (Prothrombin Time)
- PTT (Partial Thromboplastin Time)
- D - Dimer
- TT (Thrombin Time)
- Fibrinogen

These smaller volume tubes are available as stock items and can be ordered directly from stores as below:

Tube description	Tube volume	BD#	SAP #
Lavender (EDTA)	2.0 ml	367841	118682
Light blue (sodium citrate)	1.8 ml	363080	246304

Note: The larger volume tubes will be accepted for these tests during the transition. Larger volume tubes are still required for other testing.



As a reference, the Central Zone [Laboratory Test Catalogue](#) will have a blood drop symbol beside the specimen type to indicate that the test is to be collected in the smaller volume tube.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Denise MacKenzie at 902-473-6426.