

# Sodium Citrate Blood Specimen Collection Tube Conservation



**Effective June 21, 2021, St. Luke's Laboratory is eliminating the routine practice of drawing extra sodium citrate tubes when testing requiring this additive has not be ordered.**

The U.S. is experiencing significant interruptions in the supply of sodium citrate blood specimen collection tubes because of an increase in demand and recent vendor supply challenges.

The FDA is recommending the following conservation strategies to maintain the quality and safety for patients for whom such coagulation testing is medically necessary.

- Do not include sodium citrate tubes in routine collections at the time of other blood sampling (collecting extra tubes)
- Do not use sodium citrate tubes as discard tubes
- Do not use blue tubes unless medically necessary

If you have questions, please contact Steven J. Eastep, M.D., Laboratory Medical Director, (218)249-5208, Sabrina Fuchs, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, (218)249-5339, Laboratory Operations Manager, or Laboratory Client Services, (218)249-5200.

See St. Luke's Laboratory Services Web page containing New Test Announcements:

<http://www.slhduluth.com/hospital/laboratory-services/>