
MEMORANDUM

TO: PHYSICIANS LABORATORY CLIENTS

FROM: KACEY MORELAND, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

SUBJECT: DRAW VOLUME – CITRATE (BLUE) TUBES

Physicians Laboratory has received an increased number of citrate tubes submitted for PT/INR testing that have not been filled to the required volume. Sodium Citrate tubes submitted for coagulation testing must be filled to the proper fill line to ensure an accurate ratio of anticoagulant to blood. Underfilling or overfilling of these specimen tubes will adversely affect results that are used for screening and therapeutic dosage of patients. In order to provide accurate results for this type of testing, specimens that do not meet this requirement may lead to cancellation of testing. When drawing a sodium citrate tube, it is important to use specific protocols.

- Allow the tube to fill until the vacuum is exhausted and blood flow ceases. Check the fill volume before ending venipuncture to ensure adequate volume.
- A discard tube (without additives) **MUST** be used if the citrate tube is to be drawn first. It is important to remove the air from the blood collection set to ensure the proper blood volume is obtained in the coag tube.
Do Not Submit the Discard Tube with the Requisition
- **DO NOT FILL** from other tubes or combine two partially filled citrate tubes.

Physicians Laboratory does provide discard tubes free of charge to clients to aid in the collection of citrate tubes. These can be ordered from our supply department by requesting BD Vacutainer Tubes with No Additive (Ref 366703).

Additionally, a BD volume guide card has been attached to this memo as an educational tool for phlebotomists. This card provides useful phlebotomy tips, as well as a volume guide. A citrate tube can be held up to this card to determine whether the tube had been filled appropriately. The nominal fill line is also present on all citrate tubes to ensure proper fill volume. If you would like more of these cards to distribute to your staff, please contact your sales representative.