

### **CALLS FOR POSITIVE RESULTS DISCONTINUED**

Effective Immediately:

Physicians Laboratory will no longer call positives for the following tests:

10267 Influenza A & B by PCR

10269 Influenza A/B & RSV by PCR

8187 C. difficile toxigenic DNA Detection with Reflex to Toxin EIA

### **PREVENTING TEST CANCELLATIONS ~ SERUM SEPARATOR**

Proper specimen collection and handling techniques are essential to producing quality samples for testing. Test cancellations are often a direct result of improper specimen collection and handling prior to arrival at the laboratory. These are referred to as pre-analytic influences.

**The following specimen conditions will adversely affect results and may lead to test cancellations:**

- Hemolysis (rupture of red blood cells)
- Unspun SST
- Incomplete separation
- Fibrin in serum (Note: Bicarbonate values may be affected if fibrin must be removed from the tube at the laboratory)
- When filling tube, allow vacuum to fill the tube. **DO NOT** force-fill with a syringe.
- Gently invert tube 5-10 times to mix clot activator with blood. **DO NOT** shake.
- Stand tube upright to clot for 30 minutes (no longer than 60 minutes) before centrifuging.  
\*\*Specimen tube should not remain unspun for more than 1 hour\*\*
- Centrifuge to obtain complete separation.

### **TEST CANCELLATIONS INITIATED BY CLIENT**

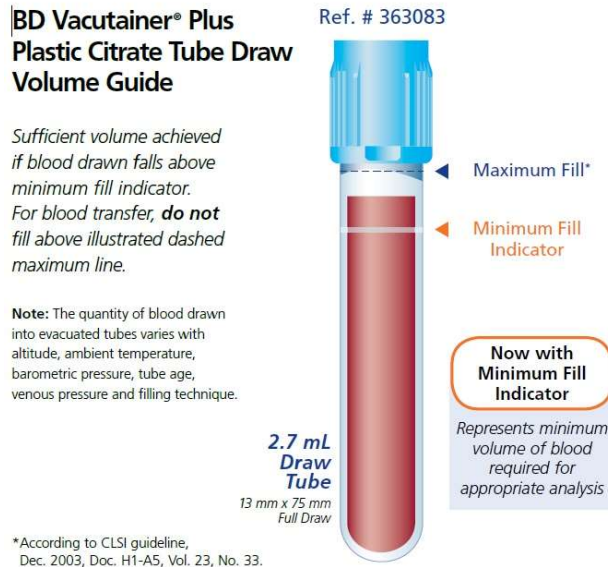
Please call our office with all cancellations. Cancelling tests in your EMR will not transmit this information to our Laboratory Information System once testing has already been received and processed. Please note that Physicians Laboratory cannot cancel testing once the sample has been prepped and/or placed on the instrument as our costs have already been accrued. However, if a test was ordered in error by the physician, please notify our client service or billing departments so that the charges can be billed back to your office versus the patient's insurance.

### **CLIENT SURVEY DISTRIBUTED**

A client survey was distributed in a second mailing. Please take the time to complete the survey on our website [physlab.com/providers](http://physlab.com/providers). You can click on the link at the top of the screen. All surveys are due no later than February 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

## HEMATOLOGY – PT, PTT, D-DIMER COLLECTION, STORAGE, AND STABILITY REMINDERS

Light blue top tubes must be filled completely in order to ensure accurate results. Sufficient volume is achieved if the blood drawn falls between the minimum and maximum fill line on the tube. If transferring blood from a syringe do not fill the tube above the illustrated dashed maximum line in the picture below. It is recommended a discard tube be used to establish blood flow prior to filling the light blue tube. Specimens that are not filled to the line on the tube or are overfilled will be cancelled.



After blood collection, there is progressive degradation of the labile coagulation factors V and VIII, leading to increased prolongation of the aPTT and PT. The allowable time interval between specimen collection and sample testing depends on the temperature encountered during transport and storage of the specimen. Allowable time intervals are as follows:

1. PT specimens, uncentrifuged, centrifuged with plasma remaining in the tube above the packed red cells, or as centrifuged plasma separated from the cells, should be kept at room temperature (18 to 24°C) and tested no longer than 24 hours from the time of specimen collection. **PT specimens should not be refrigerated during storage or transport.**
2. aPTT specimens that are uncentrifuged with plasma remaining in the tube with the packed red cells should be kept at room temperature (18 to 24°C) and tested no longer than 4 hours after the time of specimen collection.
3. aPTT specimens that are centrifuged and plasma separated from the cells should be kept 4 hours at room temperature (18 to 24°C) and tested no longer than 4 hours after the time of specimen collection.
4. If PT or aPTT testing cannot be performed within these times, platelet-poor plasma should be removed from the cells and frozen at -20°C for up to 2 weeks.
5. D-Dimer specimens are stable 4 hours refrigerated and stable indefinitely if frozen. If testing cannot be performed within 4 hours, platelet-poor plasma should be removed from the cells and frozen at -20°C.

Specimens that exceed the appropriate stability requirements and/or are stored incorrectly will be canceled.

**Reference:** BD Vacutainer Plus Plastic Citrate Tube Draw Volume Guide. Ref #36083  
College of American Pathologists. Survey Coagulation, Limited CGL-A 2016.