

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR SERVICE USERS

To: All users of Viapath Blood Sciences Laboratories at GSTT
From: Viapath Blood Sciences Laboratories, GSTT
Date/ Time: 31 August 2021
Subject: Important changes in response to current blood tube shortage

Primary Care and community care

All primary care and community testing must be halted until 17 September 2021, except for clinically urgent testing. Examples of clinically urgent testing include:

- Bloods that are required to facilitate a two week wait referral
- Bloods that are extremely overdue and/or essential for safe prescribing of medication or monitoring of condition
- Bloods that if taken could avoid a hospital admission or prevent an onward referral
- Those with suspected sepsis or conditions with a risk of death or disability

In addition to the above, please be advised that changes are being implemented to reduce the number of EDTA tubes used in the laboratories.

Laboratories will share a single EDTA sample for full blood count (FBC), ESR, and haemoglobin A1C (HbA1C) as well as a number of other tests.

Please therefore take **one sample only** for any combination of these tests.

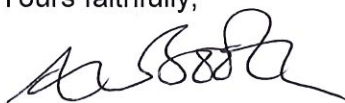
Please assist by ensuring tubes are adequately filled to prevent low volume samples from being rejected.

IT systems including TQuest and Trust EPR will be updated to reflect these changes. Historical orders may prompt to take 2 samples, please do this whilst the processes are changing.

It is expected that this is a temporary change and will be reviewed when the current issue resolves.

Please contact the Duty Biochemist on 07738 897061 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm) if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully,



Analie Booth, Divisional Operations Director.