



## LABORATORY COMMUNICATION

### Effective Immediately

### Changes to the Acceptance of Gel Barrier Tubes

#### For referral of samples to the Chemistry Department at Health Sciences Centre, St. Boniface Hospital and Westman Laboratories

Based on best practice in accordance with Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) guidelines, manufacturer's claims and the Serum/Plasma Separation Procedure and Transport SOP (DSM Policy # 110-10-05), testing will not be done from gel tubes (SST/PST) 48 hours past sample collection. This is a patient safety driven initiative.

If sent in the primary tube, to ensure that your sample is tested in a timely manner, it should arrive at the referral laboratory (HSC, SBGH or Westman) in sufficient time to register and run the sample.

It is highly recommended that labs referring in samples send an aliquot as it is a more stable sample. When sending aliquots to Westman Chemistry Laboratory, the following tube MUST be used: Hemoguard/Screw Top 13 x 75 mm tube, Greiner Bio-One to accommodate pre-analytical automation. When sending aliquots to HSC and SBGH, existing aliquot tubes may still be used but a switch to exclusive use of the Hemoguard/Screw Top 13 x 75 mm tube from Greiner Bio-One will be made once these sites go live with their pre-analytical automation.

In considering whether to send an aliquot or not, the following guidelines may be helpful. A sample should be sent as an aliquot if any of the conditions below are true for your samples.

- The sample is in transport for longer than 24 hours
- The sample is being sent to a lab operating only Monday to Friday for a test run less than daily

It is also important to note that if the sample does not have the required information as per the Specimen Acceptance Policy (DSM Policy # 10-50-03) the sample will not be processed until we have the correct information. If the sample was to arrive late on a Friday and we are unable to reach your staff to confirm demographics through the weekend, this sample would be rejected.

If you require further information you may call Hayden Malvern at 204-787-4159.

Reference: CSLI guideline H18-A4 Vol. 30 No. 10  
Greiner bio-one Vacuette package insert  
Corvac blood collection tube package insert  
BD blood collection tube package insert