

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum

To: Central Zone Healthcare Providers and Health Service Directors

From: Dr. Todd Hatchette, Service Chief, Central Zone Microbiology
Charles Heinstein, Manager, Central Zone Microbiology

Date: February 8, 2024

Subject: **Collection Change for IGRA (Interferon Gamma Release Assay) testing**

Effective February 22, 2024, the collection for IGRA testing will change to a single 6 mL lithium heparin tube in place of four specialized tubes. This change will simplify sample collection and allow for streamlined processing of samples within the Microbiology lab.

- A minimum volume of 5 mL blood needs to be collected in a 6 mL lithium heparin tube (dark green top) without serum separator, **product # 367866**
- **Collect the samples on Monday to Friday** prior to the weekend to ensure that the tubes arrive when staff are available for prompt handling.
- Stability for samples post collection is as follows.
 - 3 hrs at room temperature
 - 48 hrs at 2 - 8°C
- Sample delivery time that exceeds 3 hours for room temperature samples or 48 hours for samples at 2 - 8°C will result in sample being rejected.
- Send directly to the 3RD floor Mackenzie building, Central Zone Microbiology Laboratory

If you have any questions, please contact the Microbiology Laboratory at 902-473-2120