



Client Notice

Change of collection tube for several TDM assays

Effective August 7th, 2022, LifeLabs will be changing the collection tube from plain serum (Red Top) tube to the serum-separator tube (SST, gel-containing tube) for the following TDM assays: Carbamazepine, Digoxin, Phenobarbital, Phenytoin, Theophylline, and Valproic Acid.

An extensive stability study of refrigerated patient specimens, performed at LifeLabs, confirmed that both tube types provided equivalent results for the above TDM assays, with stability maintained (difference from the initial result $\leq 6.7\%$) for up to 7 days, except for Valproic Acid, which is stable for 4 days, and Phenytoin, which is stable for 3 days.

Change to the SST will provide ease of use, shorter clotting times (30 mins vs. 60 mins), and no need for aliquoting. This change will also allow standardized laboratory practice across LifeLabs sites and reduce the number of blood tubes collected from patients, therefore improving patient care.

LifeLabs Specimen Handling instructions will be updated accordingly. Note that the Red Top tubes will continue to be acceptable for processing.

For any questions, please contact LifeLabs Customer Care Centre, 1-877-849-3637.

We welcome your feedback!