

# Chemistry Testing Update

**Effective July 18, 2023**

## **ACTION REQUIRED: CLIENTS ORDERING POTASSIUM TESTS TO USE SERUM SEPARATOR TUBE**

**Effective July 18, 2023**, Wisconsin Diagnostic Laboratories (WDL) is requesting that all clients sending tests containing potassium (K) orders be drawn in a serum separator tube (SST). Literature indicates that there is a red cell leakage of potassium with Light Green top Plasma Separator Tubes (PSTs) over time resulting in artificially high potassium results.

Test ordering will not change, however, providers should actively participate in the use of SSTs for any of the following tests:

Test	Mnemonic	Test Number	Specimen Type
Basic Chemistry Panel	BC PN	LAB9016	SST
Basic Chemistry Panel, Fasting	BC PN	LAB9400	SST
Comprehensive Metabolic Panel	CM PN	LAB9038	SST
Comprehensive Metabolic Panel, Fasting	CM PN	LAB9401	SST
Potassium	K	LAB9135	SST
Renal Function Panel	RENAL AMA	LAB9176	SST

- \* Specimens drawn in a PST will NOT be rejected. If an area of concern is identified, follow up education will be provided for improvement.
- \* Other chemistry tests ordered can be combined with the potassium order to limit collection tubes. Most testing is acceptable in an SST but the WDL test directory should be referenced in question.
- \* 30 minute clot time is required of SST and if not adhered to, could potentially affect specimen integrity due to presence of fibrin in the specimen
- \* Rapid clot tubes are acceptable as an alternate for end of day collections.

**For technical questions or additional information, please contact:**

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