

September 15, 2025

To: All Greater Peoria Service Area Carle Health Facilities
Carle Health Methodist Outreach Clients

From: Carle Health: Peoria Service Area Laboratories

INFORM: Updated Tube Type Requirement for Vancomycin testing Effective Immediately

ACTION:

Please Review the information below regarding changes impacting tube type requirements. Changes impact all Carle **West Region** locations and will be implemented **immediately**.

INFORMATION:

Effective **Immediately**, the updated tube type requirements for Vancomycin testing will be implemented across all three campuses (**Methodist, Proctor, and Pekin**). Patient care teams should review these changes and adjust specimen collection as needed.

Collection Requirements: Red top tube OR Lithium Heparin (no gel)

- Applies to all Vancomycin tests: Random (VANR), Peak (VANP), and Trough (VANT)
- Gold and Mint green tubes are no longer acceptable due to the presence of gel separators

Carle Health Onsite Instructions:

- Collect specimen per standard collection procedure and send to laboratory immediately.

Carle Clinic and Carle Outreach Clients:

- Samples should be centrifuged within 2 hours of collection.
- Pipette the serum/plasma off the red cells into an aliquot tube.
- Clearly label the aliquot tube with patient information, test, and original tube type on aliquot.
- Throw away the original tube.
- Samples must be sent refrigerated at 2-8 °C

BACKGROUND:

These updates are based on the Chemistry Section Director's investigation of the vancomycin reagent Instructions for Use (IFU). The Vancomycin IFU states gel separator tubes should not be used. It has been found that vancomycin can get trapped in the gel leading to falsely decreased serum/plasma results. The decision was made to require Red Top tubes or Lithium Heparin tubes without gel separator to provide the most accurate results for our patients.

If you have any questions, please contact us:

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