

UPDATE: Metal-free collection tube requirement for trace element testing (Royal Blue top tubes)

Who is this message for:

New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medicine healthcare providers and clients.

What is this message about:

Effective **January 1, 2023**, ARUP, our reference Laboratory, will once again require and will only accept certified metal-free collection tubes for trace elements testing. On March 7, 2022, ARUP began to *temporarily accept* lavender (whole blood and plasma) and red top (serum) blood collection tubes for trace elements testing due to a nationwide supply shortage. Now that more supplies are available, ARUP is pleased to provide outstanding patient care by minimizing the risk of falsely elevated results and frequent redraws that can occur when samples for trace elements testing are not collected in certified metals-free collection tubes.

What do we need from you?

If specimens are sent in non-certified metals-free collection tubes, orders will be canceled and will require a patient redraw in the correct collection tube as specified in the ARUP Laboratory Test Directory. Kindly refer to List 1.1 for acceptable certified metal-free tubes and list 1.2 for affected tests which will only accept certified metal-free tubes

List 1.1 Acceptable metal-free tube types

BD Vacutainer Royal Blue (K₂EDTA) Tubes
BD Vacutainer Royal Blue (No Additive) Tubes
BD Vacutainer Tan (K₂EDTA) Tubes

List 1.2 Affected Tests

Only certified metals-free tubes will be accepted for the following tests:

Aluminum, Serum	Zinc, Serum or Plasma
Chromium, Serum	Nickel, Serum
Cobalt, Serum or Plasma	Cadmium, Blood
Copper, Serum or Plasma	Antimony, Blood
Heavy Metals Panel 3, Blood	Arsenic, Blood
Heavy Metals Panel 4, Blood	Bismuth, Blood
Iodine, Serum	Cobalt, Blood
Lead, Industrial Exposure Panel, Adults	Manganese, Serum
Lead, Blood (Venous)	Selenium, Serum or Plasma
Manganese, Whole Blood	Mercury, Whole Blood
Thallium, Whole Blood	Zinc Quantitative, Whole Blood
Copper, Red Blood Cells	Magnesium, RBC
Zinc, Red Blood Cells	

Exceptions

Arup Test code:

0020745 Lead, Blood (capillary) The small finger stick test used in pediatric populations will continue to be accepted in the lavender microtainer tubes

For testing information and requirements, please search for test on the ARUP test menuA:

<https://www.aruplab.com/testing>

For any questions or inquiries, please contact:

Client Services Department at 212-746-0670